ATENEO DE MANILA LIBRARIES

Troops raid rebel camp; 4 Abu bandits killed

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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From sin to grace, from time to eternity

BY FR. ROY CIMAGALA

THE HOLY Week is a celebration of renewal and deep conversion, which is necessary to make our passage from sin to grace, from time to eternity.

The Holy Week is the center and focus of the whole Christian liturgical calendar. It summarizes the entire redemptive work of our Lord

FROM/ A4

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Investments down 80%** BUSINESS / B1
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- **Woods wins US Masters** SPORTS / A13
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Gloria turns down Manero meeting

Surrender changes nothing, says Malacañang

DENNIS SABANGAN

FOR "safekeeping," Manero is now held at the Southern Command hospital in Zamboanga City before he returns to jail for the third time.

BY THE PDI MINDANAO BUREAU AND ARMAND N. NOCUM *in Manila*

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Sent off by a crowd of well-wishers led by the town mayor, and carrying a three-day-old foal he had rescued from a gully, priest killer Norberto Manero Jr. yesterday morning boarded a helicopter in South Cotabato and ended his latest stint as a fugitive.

Manero, who is serving a life sentence for the 1985 killing of Italian missionary Tullio Favali while a separate murder and kidnapping case is being tried against him, is seeking an audience with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

But the Palace categorically ruled out such a meeting when Ms Macapagal flies today to Zamboanga City, where Manero was brought yesterday by Presidential Assistant to Mindanao Jesus Dureza.

"His surrender changes nothing," presidential spokesperson Renato Corona Jr. said. "His demands to the President will not amount to anything. He should address them to the court."

Besides, there is no need for the President to give Manero the time of day, Corona told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

"He only got himself a bigger headache. Now he is going to be charged with an entirely new case: evasion of sentence," Corona said.

Dureza, to whom Manero surrendered at 8:45 a.m. yesterday, had asked that Manero be granted an audience with Ms Macapagal in order to hand to her a "demand letter," Corona said.

But "what good will it do him?'" he said. "This man is a convicted killer of a priest. What if other prisoners will also ask to see the President?

GLORIA/ A12

Palace cries foul on foal: 'He might eat brains'

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM AND CAROLYN O. ARGUILLAS

PICTURE this: priest killer Noberto Manero Jr. escaping from jail again, hurdling high walls topped by barbed wire on the back of a cute little foal.

Fat chance that the Palace will grant Manero's request to "adopt" a three-day-old horse that he rescued when it fell off a cliff, presidential spokesperson Renato Corona said yesterday.

"He's not going to get his wish by a long shot. He may use it to escape. He may eat the brain of the horse," Corona said sarcastically.

Witnesses had said that Manero, along with several others, ate bits of the brain of his victim when he

PALACE/ A12

VETERANS FEDERATION OF THE PHILIPPINES
PHILIPPINES

DAY OF VALOR: World War II veterans get to know the new President during rites observing the 59th anniversary of the fall of Bataan at Mt. Samat, Pilar, Bataan. President Macapagal promises more benefits including P500 million for Death March survivors. REUTERS

'Lawyers buying time for Erap'

BY VOLT CONTRERAS AND MICHAEL LIM UBAC

JOSEPH Estrada's lawyers are buying time for him to remain a free man.

One of them, Raymond Parsifal Fortun, yesterday said the defense would file these two motions today before the Sandiganbayan:

- One asking that action be deferred on the plunder and graft charges filed by Ombudsman Aniano Desierto last week, pending a Supreme Court ruling on Estrada's petition for certiorari and mandamus questioning the filing of the cases.
- Another seeking the judicial determination of the existence of probable cause, in case the anti-graft court decides not to throw back the cases to the Ombudsman.

A prayer to dismiss the charges for lack of merit will be part of this motion.

Fortun said a third motion, to "question the constitutionality of the law on plunder," would likely be filed before the high court after the Holy Week.

Ironically, then Senator Estrada was one of the legislators who voted for the passage of the Anti-Plunder Act.

Fortun said the defense had initially planned to also file a motion for reinvestigation, which basically asks the Sandigan to return the cases

LAWYERS/ A12

Defensor on Erap housing: Where did ₱280M go?

HOUSING Secretary Michael Defensor yesterday ordered an investigation of the 16 unfinished medium-rise apartments at the San Lorenzo Ruiz Resettlement Area in Taytay, Rizal, that cost taxpayers some P280 million.

The five-story tenements, occupied mostly by squatters from San Juan, have deteriorated since then President Joseph Estrada inaugurated them on April 19, 1999 on his 62nd birthday.

"We want to find out why the project was not finished and where the money went," Defensor, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, told the INQUIRER.

The project was undertaken by the San Juan local government, which is headed by Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, a son of the ousted President.

Defensor disclosed that the senior Estrada instructed the National Housing Authority (NHA) to release "outright" P100 million in 1999 to help finance the construction of the tenements.

Edgardo Pamintuan, NHA general manager, confirmed that his predecessors had shelled out P100 million to finance the project.

He said the NHA money was part of the agency's housing assistance program to local government units.

Pamintuan said his office would investigate whether Mayor Estrada had received "special favor" from the NHA that hastened the release of the money.

DEFENSOR/ A4

Tagaytay City does a Subic

Drivers warned: Traffic cops mean business

DRIVE SAFELY
TAGAYTAY HEIGHTS
3 KM

VACATION haven where traffic rules never take a break.
MIKE ALQUINTO

BY STELLA O. GONZALES

TAGAYTAY CITY—Bullheaded drivers, be warned. Traffic is a serious business in this popular vacation spot, and no one gets away with violating rules.

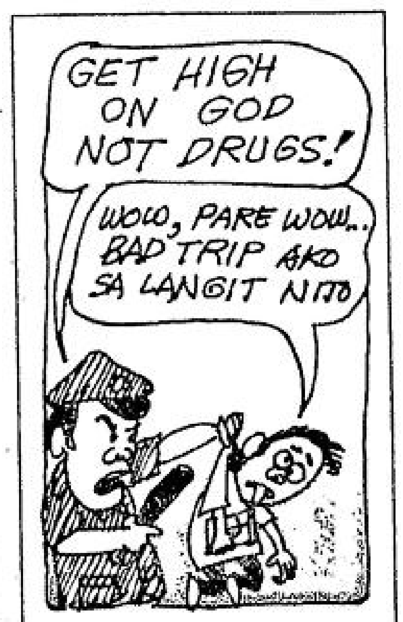
Policemen here issue traffic citation tickets so frequently that their supply runs out. They even had to request the Land Transportation Office to give them more tickets, called temporary operating permits (TOPs).

On a trip last week to check out reports that in this city, the usual pleas, threats or bribes from offending drivers come to naught, the INQUIRER watched as cops stationed at the rotunda flagged down a Ford Expedition.

The driver was alone in the car. His offense: unauthorized use of a siren. He refused the policemen's request that he take out the siren, saying he had to get permission from his boss, a military colonel.

The driver was told to speak with Chief Insp. Sheldon G. Jacaban, Tagaytay police chief, who was at the busy intersection supervising his men. The driver complied, but still he insisted that he could not remove the siren. He dropped his boss' name and said the boss' wife was attending Mass at a church nearby.

TAGAYTAY/ A3



GET HIGH ON GOD NOT DRUGS!
WOW, PARE WOW.. BAD TRIP AKO SA LANGIT NITO

Cops bust Bible-toting 'El Shabu'

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

A PREACHER-PUSHER? This one's for the books, the Holy Book, that is.

"El Shabu-Jesus Christ," suspected drug pusher Benny de Vera, a Catholic, had written in big block letters on the first page of

COPS/ A12

Reds open to proposal of a national ceasefire

BY CARLITO PABLO

COMMUNIST rebels are willing to consider at the appropriate time and venue a nationwide ceasefire, a topic which is set to be taken up tomorrow by the Cabinet cluster on national security.

Luis Jalandoni, chief peace negotiator of the National Democratic Front (NDF), said any proposal for a temporary nationwide cessation of hostilities could be discussed during the resumption of formal peace talks with the government on April 27.

But he also said the NDF was more inclined to ceasefire agreements "of limited duration for specific purposes" like the one in Southern Tagalog and the yearly temporary cessation of hostilities during the Christmas Season.

Jalandoni said the NDF panel, which arrived in Manila Sunday, could not immediately act on any proposal for a nationwide ceasefire from the Macapagal administration.

"It's not a simple matter and it should be first approved by the NDF national executive council," he said.

REDS/ A12

TIGIL NA ANG BAKBAKAN... MAHAL NA ARAW NA !

SCHILLING RESCUE DRIVE

Troops kill 4 Abu bandits

By Carlito Pablo

FOUR Moro rebels were killed and one government soldier was wounded over two days during the first major military assault to rescue two hostages still in extremist hands on Jolo island, the military said Monday.

Soldiers raided a camp of the extremist Abu Sayyaf group in the remote jungle village of Buhanginan before dawn Monday, triggering a firefight that left three rebels dead, regional army commander Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez said.

"The fighting was really fierce. There was a running gunbattle. We killed three terrorists and recovered several weapons and radio equipment," Dominguez was quoted in wire reports.

On Sunday, a member of the Abu Sayyaf was slain in a clash with elements of the 33rd Infantry Battalion in nearby Talipao town.

All-out war

The firefight resulted in the slight wounding of an unidentified soldier, the first casualty on the government side since President Macapagal-Arroyo declared an "all-out" war against the rebel group on April 2.

The President had ordered the offensive after the Abu Sayyaf threatened to behead one of the hostages, American Jeffrey Schilling, to mark Ms Macapagal's birthday.

The extremist group called off its threat after Schilling's mother, Carol Schilling, and Filipino wife, Ivy Osani, appealed to them to spare him.

Abu Sayyaf leader Abu Sabaya warned, however, that the group might still behead Schilling if the government did not stop its military offensive.

Schilling and Filipino dive instructor Roland Ullah are the last of dozens of local and foreign hostages seized by the Abu Sayyaf last year who remain in the rebels' hands.

"We have identified the rebels' hideout, but they are moving from one place to another," Dominguez said. Since April 2, the military has captured 13 suspected terrorists.

But while the assault continues, military officials find they are facing another problem.

Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson, said human rights considerations were hindering the military campaign since civilians are harboring the Abu Sayyaf.

"The human rights issue is hampering (our) operations," Adan said. "We have to avoid causing injuries to civilians and damage to property."

Citing his own experience as a combat officer in Mindanao, Adan said it is difficult to attack the enemy when they hide their weapons and blend into the local community.

Adan said the military knows many civilians have been helping the terrorists. He said the AFP cannot move against the civilians because the matter becomes a police concern.

Police concern

"We in the military know what to do, but when it becomes a police concern you need witnesses. You can't expect them (civilians) to point to these armed men because they are often their relatives," Adan said.

"So what we're doing right now is looking for armed combatants only," he said.

Adan said small military units, like the Army Rangers, are used to reconnoiter the location of the Abu Sayyaf before reinforcements are called in.

Adan said field reports indicate that Schilling and Ullah are being moved separately from town to town by the factions of Kaddafi Janjalani and Abu Sabaya.

The two hostages are believed to be in either Talipao, Maimbung or Patikul towns, the AFP spokesperson said.

Adan also downplayed the possibility that the fight against the Abu Sayyaf might spill over to Metro Manila.

"It's a threat that could happen but it's not very serious," he said. "Nonetheless, we are always on alert."

With AFP and AP reports

Modern AFP still a dream

SIX years ago, the Philippine Navy dreamed of getting new frigates, corvettes and fast patrol craft as part of the government's ambitious military modernization program.

Today, they are struggling just to acquire an inflatable boat.

Economic realities and internal insurgent threats have brought their dreams down to earth.

The modernization program, originally launched in 1995 to prepare the military to handle external defense, has been trimmed down to the bare necessities needed to fight local rebels.

But Brig. Gen. Crisolito Balaoing, director of the modernization office, is grateful that they actually received some money this year and says they expect to sign contracts for P5.48 billion in new acquisitions before the end of 2001.

His shopping list is modest: 2,156 field radios and other communications equipment, 187 trucks, 224 jeeps, 1,514 night vision goggles and scopes, 1,304 light machine guns, 1,211 grenade launchers and other items, mostly for the army and marines.

Settling for less

The armed forces will just settle for upgrading its decades-old armored vehicles, transport planes, helicopters and patrol vessels, the general said.

When it was originally approved, the modernization program called for P331 billion to upgrade the armed forces, with some P50 billion to be spent in the first five years alone.

The Philippines had good reason for such a program. Its military was one of the most poorly equipped in the region, using World War II-surplus ships and Vietnam War-era aircraft.

Furthermore, the Senate in 1991 voted to close US military bases in this country, leaving the country without the external defense provided by those bases and the hefty US military aid given as part of the bases package.

· Increased tensions over territorial disputes in the South China Sea, particularly with China, also brought the military weakness to national attention.

The original wish list was impressive: new multirole fighters, patrol vessels, an air-defense radar, armored vehicles and surface-to-air missiles with the air force and navy getting first priority.

Like a bomb

But in 1997, the Asian financial crisis hit hard as any bomb, leaving Manila short of money for the military—and everything else.

Then, an upsurge in attacks by both communist and Muslim separatist rebels forced the government to change its priorities.

"We saw the maintenance of peace and order as more immediate" than external defense, Balaoing said.

The modernization program was reoriented toward internal security with the army getting the biggest share.

But despite the continued threats, the cash-strapped government could allocate no money from the budget.

Additionally, after then-President Joseph Estrada was elected in 1998, he suspended the program so that he could review it, delaying modernization further, Balaoing recalls.

The P5.48 billion that the military is spending this year does not even come from the budget. Instead, it is part of the proceeds of a government program of privatizing former military bases into commercial centers, Balaoing said.

Race against time

Part of the reason the military is determined to sign the contracts this year is that if it fails to do so, the money will revert back to the treasury, making it difficult for the military to get it back later.

One ray of hope is President Macapagal-Arroyo who took office in January after a popular uprising—supported by the military—toppled the scandal-ridden Estrada administration.

In a show of gratitude to the military for their role in ousting Estrada, Ms Macapagal has been increasing their benefits, appointing ex-officers to top positions and meeting with soldiers frequently.

In one of her first speeches as president, Ms Macapagal told the military that she would support the modernization program despite her budgetary problems.

"I shall be a president and commander in chief who will be good to you as a person and good to you as an institution," she told the troops at the military headquarters.

AFP

Imelda tried to get $35-M assets–PCGG

By Blanche S. Rivera

FORMER first lady Imelda Marcos tried to get her hands on the $35 million in assets the Philippine government discovered in Merrill Lynch Inc. in New York last year.

This was revealed yesterday by the Presidential Commission on Good Government, the agency whose job it is to track and recover the huge sums allegedly plundered by the Marcos family from the country.

The PCGG said Mrs. Marcos had ordered her family's American lawyers to transfer the $35 million account from Merrill Lynch to Prudential Securities, another brokerage firm.

The account at Merrill Lynch was in the name of Arelma Inc., believed to be one of the foreign-registered dummy foundations set up by the late President Ferdinand Marcos to hide allegedly ill-gotten wealth.

PCGG acting chair Jorge Sarmiento said Mrs. Marcos, through her husband's lawyer John Burns and the managers of other Marcos accounts, "moved heaven and earth" to try to move the Arelma account but its bearer certificates had already been turned over to the PCGG.

"Yes, she tried," Sarmiento said. "She wanted to transfer it to Prudential Securities in New York, too, I think."

The PCGG had learned that the Marcoses were trying to keep the $35 million account out of the reach of the government but it did not know who was making the moves or how.

The Arelma assets, consisting of $2.5 million in cash and the rest in securities, was placed under the custody of the US District Court of Hawaii for the duration of an interpleader filed by Merrill Lynch.

The interpleader asked the court to decide to whom the assets belonged—the Philippine government or the Marcoses.

At the first hearing on March 27, US Judge Manuel Real asked the PCGG to prove its claim over the Arelma assets. The PCGG has yet to receive a copy of the order.

Newly appointed PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza Jr. confirmed that agency officials met with Martin Kurer, a representative of the Swiss government, last week in Metro Manila to discuss legal strategy in the Philippines' claim over the Arelma assets.

Puwersa denies Erap-Loi switch

ESTRADA

THE OPPOSITION Puwersa ng Masa yesterday denied a report that deposed President Joseph Estrada would be running for senator in place of his wife, Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, to avoid criminal prosecution.

Ferdie Ramos, president of the Loi Estrada for Senator Movement, said he was surprised at the report.

"This is another form of disinformation," said Ramos.

"I have talked to the (deposed) President about this and he said he had heard this rumor before; it's another demolition job with the objective of portraying Dr. Loi as a weak candidate that needs to be replaced," Ramos said.

He said Estrada "'has not resigned from the presidency" and for him to run for senator would be "a demotion" and "tantamount to abandoning the presidency."

In a press conference, Puwersa secretary general, Gen. Santos City Mayor Adel Antonino, said Estrada "is supporting the Puwersa ng Masa in its totality and he's not (about) to substitute for anybody, whether it's Doktora Loi or anybody."

The issue stemmed from a Pinoy Times story which quoted an unnamed source as saying that Estrada planned to replace Loi Ejercito in the Puwersa senatorial slate to avoid the plunder and graft charges filed against him by the Ombudsman last week.

Substitution for a registered candidate is allowed under the Election Code.

"That is not an option," Antonino said.

Volt Contreras

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Dead plebe not among cadets on list of unfit

BAGUIO CITY—The Philippine Military Academy had detected 40 "physically unfit" plebes, among 163 new cadets of PMA Class 2005, the PMA spokesman told the INQUIRER on yesterday.

But Cadet Fourth Class Monico de Guzman, 20, who died here on Saturday, was not on the list of freshman cadets who failed to pass a rigid standard for physical exercises, said Maj. Rodolfo Latonero Jr., PMA public information officer.

The list does not also include De Guzman's batch mate, Cadet Fourth Class Mark Christian Caraan, who was also hospitalized last week for kidney complications arising from dehydration after undergoing similar physical stress on field.

De Guzman died at 4:15 a.m. on Saturday from acute respiratory distress syndrome at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center, after attending only three days of mandatory orientation training at Fort del Pilar here.

De Guzman and Caraan were two of 163 cadets who were admitted to the PMA last April 1.

De Guzman's remains were taken to his hometown in Labrador, Pangasinan, on Sunday. His parents have demanded an investigation of his death. *Vincent Cabreza with a report from Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

SEC probes HK 'boiler room' stock scam

By Doris Dumlao

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has launched an investigation into the laundering of millions of dollars by a "boiler room" fraud syndicate targeting stock investors even as Hong Kong police arrested at the weekend five Filipinos allegedly engaged in such fraudulent stock transactions.

Hong Kong police said yesterday the four men and a woman, aged between 22 and 48, were arrested on Saturday and released on bail of HK$25,000 each. They were required to report back on May 4, a police spokeswoman said.

The fraud involved luring victims into buying stocks through "boiler room" (high-pressure) sales pitches over the telephone, the police said. The stocks were later found to be worthless, non-existent or overpriced.

Investigators had found that calls were made by fraudsters in the Philippines to victims worldwide, with many of those targeted paying for their stocks through specially created Hong Kong bank accounts.

The Hong Kong police said the scam had netted some US$50 million over the past few years.

The SEC said it was investigating 36 affiliated individuals and firms and filed last Friday three counts of Securities Regulation Code violations against 21 companies and six individuals with the Department of Justice.

Charged with manipulation of security prices, fraudulent transactions and registration of brokers, dealers, salesmen and associated persons were Amador Pastrana, Rufina Abad, Noel Galang, Hilda Ronquillo, Greshiela Compendio and Gregory Paul Barnes.

The SEC has tagged the six as the alleged brains behind 21 companies allegedly using deceptive schemes to lure offshore investors into buying non-existent shares of stock supposedly traded at the Nasdaq, Ofex, Countex and other known foreign exchanges.

The SEC, with the National Bureau of Investigation, recently raided the offices of the 21 companies. Some of the companies tacked on such familiar international names as "Morgan," "Sachs" and "Lynch" to their corporate identities, apparently to add credibility to their operations.

Among the 21 companies were firms with such names as Knowle & Sachs Inc. and Morgan Lynch United Resources Marketing Inc. They allegedly presented themselves as broker-dealers although they were mostly registered only as management consultancy firms.

With a report from AFP

No dead dolphin in Subic

By Cynthia D. Balana

NO dolphin died in the "Ocean Adventure" show in Subic Bay since the company operating it does not have a dolphin among its marine mammals.

The clarification was issued by the Subic Bay Ocean Adventure management after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources recommended its closure to President Macapagal-Arroyo for operating without an environment clearance certificate (ECC).

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez cited reports that a dolphin died in the show as one of the reasons for his decision to halt the project.

But Timothy Desmond, chair and chief operating officer of the "Swim with the Whale Project," said that the company does not have a dolphin, only whales and sea lions, which are all in good health.

This means that the DENR was being fed with wrong information on the show, he said.

According to Desmond, about 8,000 students, members of the academe and communities in Subic and representatives from other non-government groups have signed up in support of the project.

"If they saw in their visit here cruelty to animals by the Ocean Adventure, they would not send these statements of support," he pointed out.

In recommending the closure of the show, Alvarez told the President that he wanted to put to rest the controversial issue of the operation of this Marine park at the Camayan Wharf Area when he asserted his department's sole authority to issue ECC.

The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority earlier insisted that it was vested with authority to issue an ECC to operators of the dolphin show under Republic Act 7227 which created the SBMA and its charter.

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Tagaytay City does a Subic

(From page A1)

Asked why he was using a siren when he knew it was illegal to do so, the driver said in Filipino: "The horn is not working." Maybe the police could just let him go?

Jacaban said he could not do that. He pointed to this reporter and photographer Mike Alquinto, saying: "The press are here. They're here to observe if we are really strict in implementing the law. If I let you go, what will they say?"

As a compromise, Jacaban said he would let the driver keep the siren. But he told his men to confiscate the driver's license and issue a ticket wherein it was stated that the siren would be removed at the LTO Tagaytay office.

The driver fidgeted, then nodded, surrendered his license and signed the ticket.

After the driver had left, Jacaban expressed appreciation for the media's presence. "If you were not here, maybe he would have given us a hard time. (But) he didn't have much of a choice," he said.

Not just for show

Skeptics may think that this incident was just for show. But according to police records, this was not the first time Jacaban's men refused to be intimidated by influential people.

At one time, they stopped a car bearing the mayor of a Southern Tagalog town and issued a ticket to the driver. At another, they confiscated a siren from a Department of Agrarian Reform vehicle.

But because the people involved were government officials, the police had to endure a lengthy argument with the offenders before they could issue a ticket.

"It's people from the government who are more rude," Jacaban lamented.

The police chief wants to buy a video camera so he can record instances of offenders refusing to part with their licenses and arguing with police. He believes that the presence of someone recording such incidents will not only deter offenders from prolonging the inevitable—the issuance of a ticket—but also protect his men from possible accusations of harassment.

"When they start arguing with the police, someone could point the camera at them and record everything. At least we would have some evidence if this is needed in the future," Jacaban said.

Two weeks ago, he canvassed prices for a video camera but found these too steep for his limited personal budget. He is bent on saving money to buy one.

Robbery

The strict implementation of traffic rules was one of Jacaban's first projects when he became Tagaytay police chief last October.

Initially, it was intended to stop robbers who were victimizing households and who were using vehicles with no license plates.

Jacaban deployed his cops at strategic areas and told them to apprehend all vehicles with no plates. After a few weeks, the number of robbery incidents in the city was drastically reduced.

But more than this, Jacaban wants his city to serve as a model for the rest of the country when it comes to obeying traffic rules.

"When motorists enter Subic (in Zambales) they are forced to obey traffic rules. I hope Tagaytay will be like that," he said.

To prepare his men for the job, Jacaban "indoctrinated" them on Republic Act 4136, the Land Transportation Code. Then he secured an order from the LTO to permit more of his men to issue traffic citation tickets.

Jacaban knows his stuff, having been earlier assigned to the Traffic Management Command.

He is a 1985 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy (Sandiwa Class), and believes that obeying traffic rules is basic in character building.

"We want to train our citizens to have a social obligation. The social obligation of motorists is to follow traffic rules so they won't cause damage to property and to the public," he said.

Setting the example

Tagaytay policemen were at first hesitant to apprehend all traffic violators without fear or favor. To prove that he meant business, Jacaban went with them and staked out the highway.

"When you set the example, (you earn your men's respect)," he said.

There were times when he rose at 2 a.m. to go with his men. He still joins them occasionally even if he knows that they are doing a good job without supervision.

Jacaban had promised his men that if they got into trouble for implementing the law, he would take full responsibility for them. But he also warned that those asking for or taking bribes were on their own.

He said his men had always rejected bribes, adding: "It is difficult to bribe them because most of them have sufficient income." (One policeman has a three-hectare coffee farm.)

For motivation, Jacaban's cops get free meals at the police station. He also spends the entire operating fund on their and the station's needs.

He has also started giving them shooting lessons as additional incentive. Using donated resources, he has converted a small lot at the back of the police precinct into a firing range.

And when Jacaban's men require money for an emergency, they need not be tempted by bribes. They can turn to the police cooperative he put up using contributions from the members and the P55,000 prize they received in January from the Department of Interior and Local Government as the Most Citizen-Friendly Police Station

Something right

Jacaban must be doing something right. He has been receiving applications from policemen who want to transfer to his city.

Five months into the traffic campaign, Tagaytay has earned a reputation among motorists as a place where the rules are strictly enforced. In fact, many motorists, even stubborn jeepney and truck drivers, stop at the city boundaries to fasten their seatbelts.

Most of the offenses involve vehicles without seatbelts or whose drivers are not buckled up.

Then there are the vehicles with defective lights. In a city where fog usually settles at night and in the early morning, Jacaban tirelessly cites the importance of having vehicular lights in good working condition.

Motorcyclists who usually troop to Tagaytay during weekends have also learned to wear helmets.

As for license plates, Jacaban's cops lecture offenders on why the law works to their advantage: A vehicle without plates is doubly appealing to thieves.

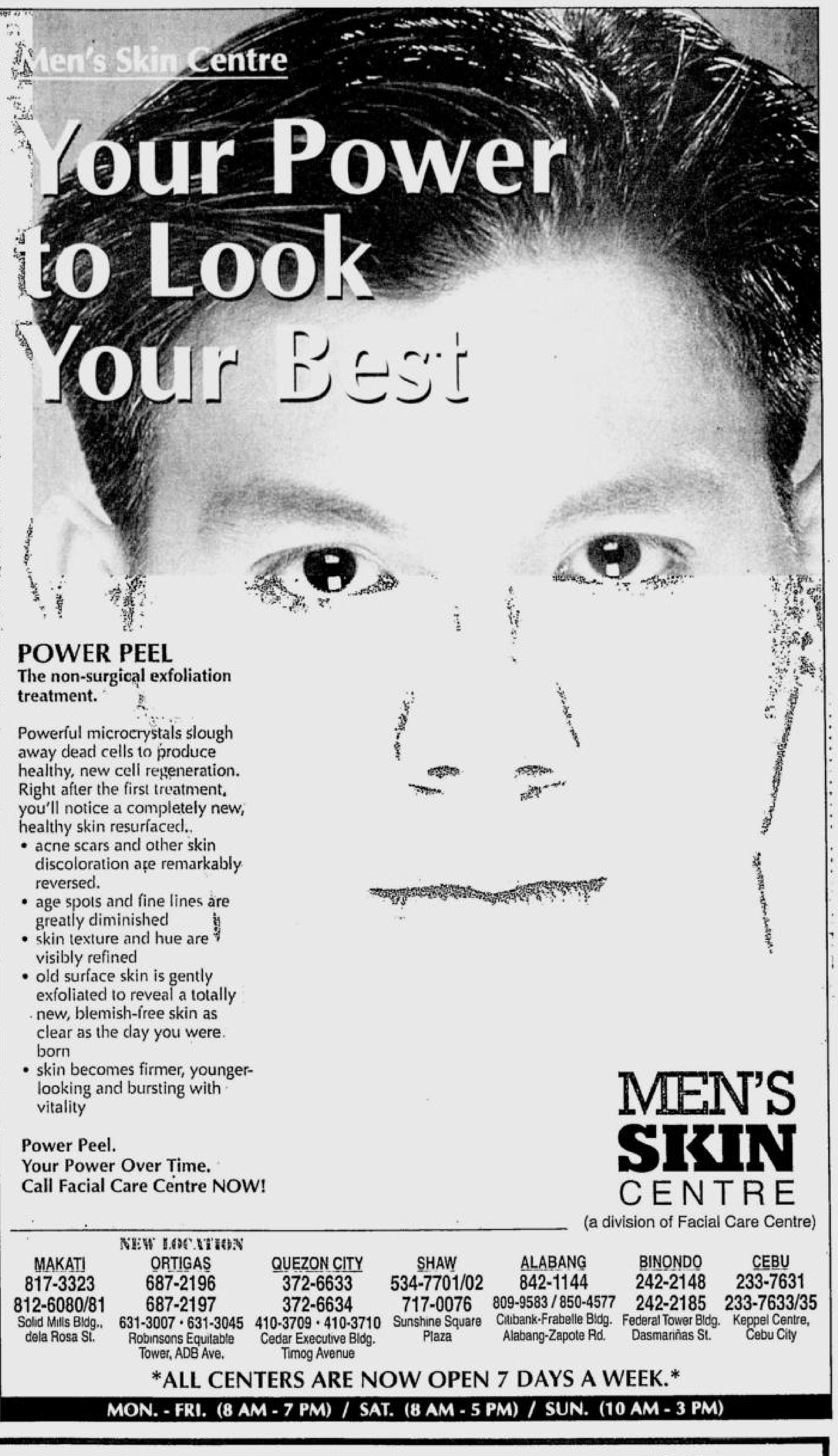
To ensure their safety, Tagaytay cops operate in groups.

If an offender flees a checkpoint, they radio their colleagues at the next checkpoint to block the vehicle.

So seriously have they taken their traffic work that they quickly run out of TOPs. Normally, the LTO issues only one TOP booklet (with 25 tickets) daily. Upon Jacaban's request, the LTO now issues two booklets.

Unconsciously, Tagaytay police have been contributing to the nation's coffers by strict traffic law enforcement. The minimum fine for a minor offense is P150.

"If only all local governments do what we are doing, we can generate a lot of revenue," Jacaban said.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EASTER SAIL MEET

A gathering of top one-design sailboats in the Philippines.

Westin Easter Sail Meet 2001

The Easter Sail Meet is a special water sports event that will launch the sail training facility of Westin Philippine Plaza, The Park Water Sailing Center by Liquid Xperience.
The Easter Sail Meet is a gathering of one-design sailboats, class associations, fans and friends to demonstrate the sport of sailing in an atmosphere of fun, camaraderie and sportsmanship.

Venue

Offshore

Westin Philippine Plaza's breathtaking waterfront vista and spectacular sunset view will serve as the backdrop of the regatta. It is a unique opportunity for both the sport and the media. never before has a sailing event come so close to the shore for everyone to see.

Westin's famed waterfront location will soon be regarded as the newest sailing venue in the Philippines!

Inshore

With a world-class resort and recreational facility in place, Westin is the ideal host of the regatta.

*The raised grass area by the garden will be open to the families and friends of sailors during competition. A sailing booth with the Streaker, the newest one design sailboat in the country will be displayed.

This booth will enable the Race Management Staff to provide participating sailors, spectators and the media with information regarding the race.

*Siete Picados Sports Bar will host the entertainment at the awarding ceremonies on Easter night. Open bar on draft and soda between 5pm and 7pm only.

Admission to the regatta and awards night will be free to people with advanced reservations only. Food will be sold. In order to promote the sport of sailing, the general public is encouraged to participate in this event. This shall ensure that the Easter Sail Meet will be one festive and memorable sailing event.

Prizes

- Trophies will be given to three top winners for each class.
- All participants will receive gift packages from the sponsors.

One-Design Classes

The regatta will feature several one-design classes (types of boats) racing on a trapezoid course. These events will be designated as:

Event	Class
Single-Handed	Streaker Optimist
Double-Handed	420

Merchandise

- *Uniforms - The organizers will be in event uniforms adorning the event and sponsors and supporters logo.
- Regatta flags and other decorations will also adorn the event venue.

Participants and Spectators

It is expected that about 70 sailors and organizers will be in the Meet. The event shall also attract some 100 spectators and fans.

Attractions

Park Water Dinghy Center will be launched as the best facility for dinghy sailing in Manila. It will showcase sail training, giving lessons on basic sailing, racing and marlinspike seamanship.

Park Water will also serve as the home of the newest one-design sailboat fleet in the Philippines, The Streaker.

The latest and most affordable sailing dinghy in the market, the Streaker will attract the interest of the old salts and create a new breed of racers and cruisers. It will be Philippine sailing history revisited and revised!

Philippine Daily Inquirer LIFESTYLE
élan
STREAKER
L Q X

Defensor on Erap housing: Where did ₱280 million go?

(From page A1)

"We have to check if other government units have been able to avail themselves of such assistance," Pamintuan said.

He disclosed that his office was also looking into the background of "Bahay sa Kinabukasan," the company which built the tenements.

He said an alleged crony of the ousted President could be the owner of the real estate firm.

Pamintuan yesterday sent a team of engineers to inspect the apartments at Phase 3 of Barangay San Lorenzo Ruiz in Taytay.

The structures shake when a car passes through the narrow concrete streets of the resettlement area.

Despite the project's huge budget, the apartments lack toilets, doors, windows and roofs.

The families that moved into four of the buildings last December from the nearby Sitio Arienda are drawing water from deep wells.

DEFENSOR

Showcase

The tenements were supposed to be the showcase of the resettlement area that Estrada created in 1985 for squatters in San Juan, when he was still the mayor of the town.

Around 10,000 residents, mostly former San Juan residents and Estrada die-hard supporters, live in the area.

In a statement, Pamintuan assured the residents that they would get government assistance.

"We are under instructions from President Macapagal-Arroyo to provide housing assistance to the urban poor, regardless of their political leanings," the NHA chief said. *Christian V. Esguerra*

From sin to grace , from time to eternity

(From page A1)

Jesus Christ. It may be regarded as the climax of divine love for us.

The Son of God, who became man and assumed everything human except sin, starts to preach, performs miracles, institutes the Sacraments, founds the Church.

Finally, "when the days drew near for him to be received up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem" (Lk 9:51). This is when he takes on himself the sins of all men by offering his life on the cross. And by his resurrection, he conquers both death and sin.

This is the essence of the Holy Week. It is the liturgical moment that makes the present, unfading and effective for all times and the marvelous conquest of life over death.

It proclaims the truth that, as long as we imitate Christ, we can derive strength from weakness, and glory from dishonor.

If we learn how to die with Christ, we can also rise with him into the new life.

It is a stirring invitation, by Christ and his Church, for us to have a deeper recourse to our faith, exercising it through prayers and our daily struggles to mould our lives according to the tenets of our faith.

Man needs to live by faith, for his end and true happiness lies not in the world of senses, nor in the world of ideas, but in the supernatural world of God who not only is our Creator but is truly our Father, who loves us to madness.

Forgive, forgive

That is why, he forgives and forgives. That is his most excellent expression of love for us. He is not contented with simply creating us, endowing us with the best things in nature. We can misuse our blessings, and he is still willing to forgive us.

But he wants us to reciprocate this divine love by learning to ask for forgiveness as well as to forgive. In a sense, that is the ultimate mark of godliness. After all, we are his children, created in his image and likeness. He treats us like he treats himself. That is why, Christ forgives, and even though sinless and in fact the very canon of holiness, he asks for forgiveness, for all of us. That is how to be God-like.

The liturgy of the Holy Week aims to effect this reality in us. Its relevance never wanes. On the contrary, it grows every moment, since absolutely everything in life, if not needing purification, needs to be offered to our Father. And that can only be done through Christ, in his loving sacrifice on the cross.

AN OPEN LETTER TO HER EXCELLENCY

PRESIDENT GLORIA M. ARROYO

Your Excellency, in line with the national objectives of ensuring food safety, food security, social equity, global competitiveness, and sustainable development, we, members of the farming sector, NGOs, science community, academe, business, consumers, and the medical sector fully support an agenda that will enable us to harness the potentials of innovations in biotechnology. This agenda should consider the specific requirements of the country's major sectors and industries, provide for a framework for a science-based assessment of the potential benefits and risks, and allow for intellectual property protection.

We appeal to you, Your Excellency, to continue supporting biotechnology as a strategic tool to achieve our national goals. The conduct of food and environment safety assessments including field trials must continue. It is only by coming out with these safety assessments can we truly realize its potential benefits. The country hosts a vibrant, world-quality biotechnology community that can be tapped, hand in hand with our government regulators, to render these safety assessments.

Your Excellency, let biotechnology find its true and rightful role in the country's development.

Thank you.

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OPINION

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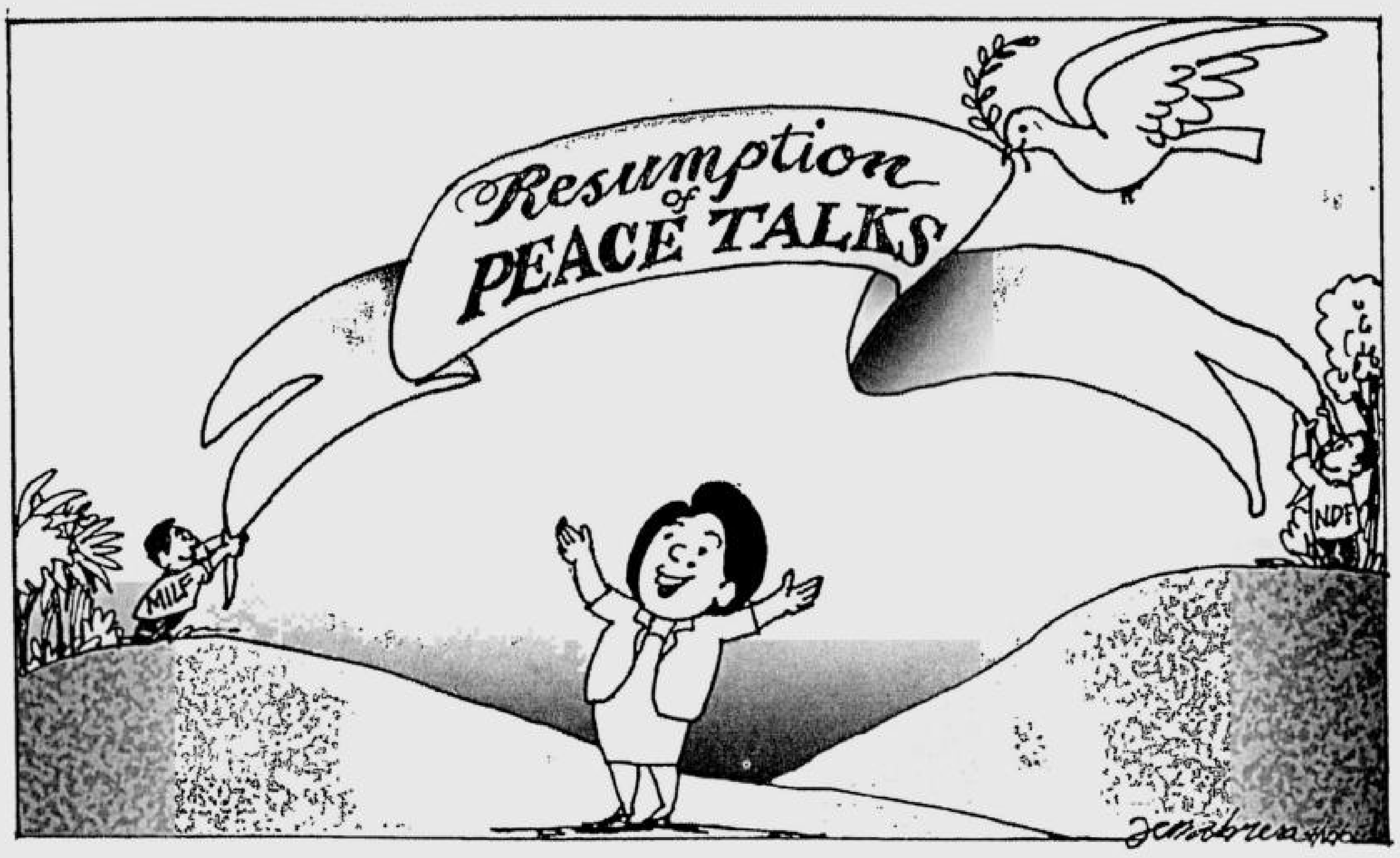


EDITORIALS

Spiritual exercise

THE HOLY Week has become a time to relax, to recharge one's batteries, to indulge in recreation after the busy first three months of the year. In the not so distant past, this was not the case. The Holy Week then was principally a time for commemorating the Passion of Christ. It was a time for reflection, for meditation, for religious rituals.

The old folks really kept the Holy Week holy. You were not supposed to work or play during Holy Week. You were not supposed to talk or make noise. You were not even supposed to take a bath—at a time when temperatures were rising and the whole house was steaming. Now all that has changed; the Holy Week has become an excuse for taking a short vacation and recharging one's batteries. The rituals are cursorily observed, and sometimes altogether forgotten.

Yes, there is a need to recharge one's batteries from time to time. In this harsh, busy world, one has to take time out sometimes to pause and rest. It is all one can do to keep one's balance and sanity in the face of mounting problems and troubles. But one also has to return to the old tradition of observing the Holy Week as a time for meditating on the Passion of Christ, on His sacrifice on the Cross. The Holy Week should again be a time for spiritual stock-taking and rejuvenation.

The leaders of the nation have to be the very first to engage in this spiritual exercise. They have to reexamine the moral and spiritual agenda of the nation. They have to ask themselves if they are setting the right example for the people. It would do them good to reflect on the supreme sacrifice of Christ. It would benefit their souls to ask themselves if they have, like Christ, served the people first before themselves.

"He who would be first among you shall be the last." But here, such is not the case. The leaders, in most cases, are the first to serve themselves. In some cases, they have helped themselves to the public treasury. They wallowed in luxury and excess while the masses sank deeper in the mire of poverty and want.

The tragedy of the Filipino people is that in the past half century or so they have elected leaders who have generally protected their interests and have engaged in self-aggrandizement. We refer to officials not only of the executive department but also of the legislative branch. Leaders who are upright, self-sacrificing and who have the public welfare at heart are often the exception rather than the rule.

During the current Holy Week, our leaders, our public officials, the candidates who are running for public office would do well to focus on the message of the Crucifixion of Christ. Some people would see in the entire event a message of hatred and violence: all they would see is the hatred of the Jews at that time for one who called himself the Messiah. They would see the blood and gore of the Crucifixion. But Christ's message is one of love and sacrifice. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son."

Symbolic act

ON MAUNDY Thursday, Christ shows the extent of His love by doing something that none of his disciples thought He would do: He washes their feet. As a physical act it is just an act of cleansing. But as a spiritual, symbolic act it foreshadows the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross. He is ready to lay down His life for His people. And He is doing this out of love for them.

We do not ask that our leaders all become like Christ and go through a supreme sacrifice. We do not even expect them to be Christ-like. In all of history perhaps only one man approached the holiness and saintliness of Christ. He was St. Francis of Assisi, "the most perfect image of Christ that ever was." We do not expect our leaders to be images of Christ or even only of Francis of Assisi. But we do expect them to be moral leaders of the nation. We do expect them to undertake some measure of sacrifice. We do expect them to love their people, if not more than themselves, at least as much as themselves.

The Holy Week is a time for reflection and meditation. It is a good time for our leaders to reflect on the Passion of Christ. We urge them to meditate on the lesson of love and sacrifice that He gave the world.

Living in God's world

COMMENTARY

John J. Carroll, S.J.
Institute on Church and Social Issues

A COUNTRY parish outside the town of Ithaca, New York, in 1981. I am living there while teaching in the Southeast Asia Program at Cornell, and Fr. Arthur Shea passes by while on home leave from his parish in Mindanao. That afternoon there is a gathering of the Southeast Asia Program faculty and students, and I invite Father Arthur along. A professor of art history comes over to greet the visitor, and to make a conversation, speaks of a book on everyday life in the middle ages; he is reviewing the new edition. Father Arthur's eyes light up; "That's a wonderful book" he exclaims, and the two go on discussing it. The next day the professor remarks to me that it "blew his mind" to find a missionary from Mindanao familiar with that scholarly work.

The following day I take my 75-year-old guest to the bus station, where he begins a 15-hour trip to see friends in Georgia. On a later trip to the United States he will go by bus all the way down through Mexico to Nicaragua in order to see for himself how the Sandinistas were managing the country. And still later on he will "do" Europe in 30 days, sleeping on trains at night to save money and exploring churches and museums by day.

Earlier Father Arthur had spent 20 days in a Buddhist monastery in Sri Lanka, being introduced to Buddhist forms of prayer—forms of prayer which he kept up to the end of his life.

Back in the Philippines in the mid-1980s, it was my turn to visit him in his parish of Bayug, Zamboanga del Sur. Bayug was a "hot area" at the time, a valley ringed by mountains where the military and the NPA and the fanatical Tadtad sect which cuts its enemies up into pieces played a deadly game of hide-and-seek with each other. Father Arthur's sympathies were with the social-justice objectives of the NPA, but he hated the violence because "it is always the little people who get hurt." On at least one occasion he was asked by the police to accompany them as they went up to recover a body; apparently they believed that if the NPA saw Father Arthur with them, they would not open fire.

When the military burned some houses in the high barrios in retaliation for an ambush, Father Arthur and his parish worker Greg Inso took up the case, although the victims were actually Seventh Day Adventists. A military officer was disciplined, but it cost Inso his life; on my desk I have a picture of his bullet-riddled body and on the back in the handwriting of Father Arthur: "Greg Inso, Oct. 17, 1985, martyr for justice."

Father Arthur was an extraordinary person and his "vocation story" was extraordinary as well. The son of a farm laborer and city fireman, he was a rebel at heart. In those days of "prohibition" when the possession of alcoholic beverages was illegal, he went up to receive his high school diploma with a flask of liquor on his hip. He received his call to the priesthood in an Italian restaurant, over a meal of pasta and illegal "dago red" wine, from a friend who read to him a vocation pamphlet. Father Arthur responded to the call, and entered the Jesuits since he felt more attracted to teaching than to parish work.

Jesuit superiors agreed and planned studies for him in anthropology. But divine providence intervened: he was sent to the Philippines by mistake in 1940, was assigned to parish work in Mindanao, was caught t here by the war, spent the war years ministering to the people and playing hide-and-seek with the Japanese. Thereafter, in his more than 71 years as a Jesuit he was never assigned to teach, he never did formal studies, and most of those years were spent in pastoral work in Mindanao.

A formula for frustration you say? I have never known a happier person, one more in love with life, with his people in the parishes, with his Jesuit friends, with intellectual discourse, with art and beauty. He loved debate, often just for the sake of debate; once when he was caught taking both sides of an argument, he replied that "consistency is a vice of small minds!"

What was the source of his perpetual excitement about life? Perhaps a clue may be found in a talk which he gave in New York when receiving an award of recognition for his long years in the missions. He started by proclaiming that "I am ashamed to be here—alone," and then went on to name other Jesuits, deceased, whom he had known, who had formed him and in his words, had "revealed God to me." Perhaps at the heart of it all was the principle of St. Ignatius that one should "find God in all things." Surely Father Arthur found God in the people, the friends, the beauty, the pain and sorrow and the challenges of this world.

Father Arthur died at the age of 94 just as Lent was beginning; the 40th day is now at hand, and there may be a message in his life for us as we enter Holy Week. I see him telling us that our God is to be found not only in the memory and reenactment of Christ's passion and death. He is there indeed, and we should not see Holy Week as just a vacation time. But He is there in all the events of our lives if only we listen. And in listening we can find the true beauty and joy of His World.

Seeing double

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I GOT this thoughtful letter from a reader, who wants to be known only by the name, "Joe Kano":

"As a foreigner (American, God forbid), I am having a difficult time figuring out the Filipino thinking. Filipinos call a movie like "Live Show" filth, berate its actors and actresses, director and producer, and say it should never be shown. Encouraging all to pay the price of admission, cower into the theater and probably enjoy a couple of hours of 'peace and longing.' At the same time, they allow a philandering, boozing, gambling, (and quite possibly a murdering kidnapper) thief to run free through the countryside, proclaiming his 'right' to the presidency and immunity, helping his *'sipsips'* in their reelection bids.

"Can you **please** tell me what I am missing here? You hit the nail on the head when you dissected the problem of the 'dumb masses' and called for understanding the poor. But this is a different ball of wax. I truly do not understand this way of thinking (and please don't blame the Spanish or American colonialists). I can only keep repeating the phrase, *'Hoy, gising, Pinoy!'"*

Well, the Supreme Court at least has done something about the fellow's continuing claim to the presidency, paving the way to his compatriots doing something about his thieving, and quite possibly his murderous kidnapping, if not his philandering, boozing and gambling. But you're right, this is a country that has added whole new dimensions to selective perception, or double standards. I recall that Erap himself at one point in his presidency spoke earnestly against the evils of divorce, and vowed to oppose it to his last breath. How's that for monumental irony? The women's groups were up in arms.

The problem is patent enough, though it often takes an outsider to see it. It was a foreigner who also expressed to me last month (I wrote about it in a column) his befuddlement at that picture which came out in the front page of the INQUIRER showing a sea of hands extending out to Erap in Tondo. How was it possible, he asked, that Filipinos could actually love a felon? The impeachment trial, to his mind, clearly showed Erap was so, even if it failed to convict him.

I myself have written not without amazement at our capacity to fulminate against lewd movies but tolerate action movies and TV sitcoms that keep putting down women, dark-skinned, snubnosed and short people, the elderly, the handicapped. I should think the second does more to warp values and attitudes than the first, particularly because they take on the benign aspect of comedy or escapist entertainment. More than this, I've written not without amazement at our capacity to fulminate against obscenity in reel life but tolerate it in real life. Can anything be more obscene than the **reality** of grinding poverty in this country, which compels many Filipinos to prostitute themselves at home and abroad?

I can only guess at the reasons why we so readily see the one and so resolutely miss the other. I have to blame at least the Spanish, if not the American, colonialists for a great deal of it, having bequeathed to us a religion and church that are more concerned with weekly public displays of virtue than with everyday private practice of it, with piousness than with ethical behavior, with devoutness than with justice. It is a prissy kind of morality we have, one that brands as sinful people who do not pray, who do not go to Church on Sundays, who do not routinely receive the sacraments, above all, Matrimony, the one sacrament closely allied with Extreme Unction. On the other hand, you do all the above, and it doesn't greatly matter that you rob, rape or kill. There is the confessional for that, which many Catholics regard as the religious equivalent of the washing machine. Or self-flagellation, the ritual expiation of heinous sin among the more masochistic.

Our concepts of morality revolve around rituals and external trappings and not around deeply felt and internalized discernments of good and bad. Juan Ponce Enrile is a devout Christian, an earnest devotee of the Virgin Mary at that. That did not prevent him from faking an ambush on himself, giving Marcos the final excuse to declare martial law. Yet he calls himself *"maka-Diyos,"* and probably deeply believes it. More to the point, is probably deeply believed so by many Filipinos.

Miriam Defensor-Santiago is a devout Christian, and even went to Mary Hill to study theology. It did not prevent her from using all her legal skills to defend a corrupt president, tyrannizing critics and calling them the most un-Christian names. Yet she calls herself an exceptionally moral person (as indeed an exceptionally learned one, another concept wrapped in external trappings, such as magical letters after a name—but that's another story) and probably deeply believes it. More to the point, to go by the surveys, is probably deeply believed so by many Filipinos.

While protesting lewd shows, Jaime Cardinal Sin himself never thought to protest Cory's cultists and vigilantes (the brain-eating Norberto Manero now feels free to make a joke about turning vegetarian) and vast tracts of land-reformable land. While lamenting the impoverishment of the Filipino soul, Cardinal Sin has never thought to lament the enrichment of the Church coffers from its land and banks. As far as I know only Bishops Labayen, Fortich and a few others who have tried to build a Church of the Poor where they are have done so. And managed to get themselves called communists. Thanks to the (mainstream) Catholic Church itself, our concepts of morality have little to do with justice.

Which brings me to yet another reason for why we see immorality in lean starlets but not in fat public officials, cops and bishops, who were the governor-generals, guardia civil and friars of Jose Rizal's time—ah, but so little has changed! Which is also that it is a deliberate, or reflexive effort, on the part of the country's elite to make it so. Have you ever wondered why, when this country finds itself impoverished and desperate, our leaders discover that our greatest threat is lewd movies? Have you ever wondered why, when this country finds itself thoroughly lawless with no small help from its lawmen, the PNP discovers that our greatest threat is smut? Have you ever wondered why, when land reform has finally gotten to the phase of expropriating private land, the Church discovers that our greatest threat is Klaudia Koronel and Ana Capri?

Have you ever wondered why we keep agreeing with them?

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Kabayan should respond to Fr. Enriquez's challenge

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE CHALLENGE to independent candidate Noli de Castro hurled by Fr. Raul Enriquez of Lucena City has been left unanswered, but the frontrunner broadcaster can only ignore it at his own political peril. Father Enriquez recently pointed out that ABS-CBN broadcaster De Castro took his "Magandang Gabi Bayan" crew last year to Lucena and environs, to investigate reports that prominent politicians and a drug lord are linked to the drug syndicate in the region. Father Enriquez said De Castro's crew stayed for four days, but nothing ever came out of their investigation, even if the issue was already so hot then. No explanation at all.

The implication here, of course, was that De Castro and his crew were either paid to keep quiet, or they were too plain scared to touch the subject. Kabayan has chosen to stonewall the recent picket at the giant network by Father Enriquez, who was joined by fellow Gomburza member Fr. Robert Reyes of the UP Catholic Parish.

* * *

Former President Ramos, speaking recently before his fellow West Point alumni at the annual West Point Foundation Day dinner, hosted this year by Petron chair and West Point '69 alumnus Jose Syjuco, zeroed in on a number of "untoward" episodes in the military. One was the open jockeying for top positions in the AFP, which pitted one PMA class against another class. Ramos, West Point Class '50, decried the fact that what seems to be happening is that loyalty is confined to one's class, as though it were the "highest form of loyalty."

The other episode he cited involved the recent death of PMA cadet fourth class Edward Domingo of Camiling, Tarlac, after hazing by four upper class cadets. What made it tragic for this cadet and his family, said Ramos, was that he apparently died from "overcelebration," after he returned to the PMA from a vacation. Ramos noted that physical violence stemming from hazing was abolished in West Point in 1938, but here, by contrast, it is still practiced not only in the PMA but also in UP fraternities, the police, etc. He called on the Filipino West Point alumni to use "quiet but persuasive means" to let their military friends know how passé hazing has become in the US military academy and the need to do away with this evil here.

* * *

Civic leader and social worker Melon Recto-Silverio, who is running as Lakas-PPC official candidate for the House first district seat being vacated by Makati City Rep. Joker Arroyo, is the candidate of the elite class of Makati, which is rebelling against allegations of corruption against returning Mayor Jojo Binay. But this Assumption Convent foreign service graduate and businesswoman, a longtime Barangay Forbes Park kagawad, considers herself the bridge between the rich Makati, to which she belongs, and the poorer Makati, to which 90 percent of the population belongs. This is because Melon has worked for many years in various social projects for Makati's poor. "You should see her rapport with the *masa*; she is a natural," say Assumption classmates Cecilia B. Garucho and Marivic del Rosario who have joined her sorties.

* * *

Melon has been confronted with the question of whether her entry into politics is taking votes away from PDP candidate Teddy Boy Locsin, who's being supported by Binay, and thus increasing the chances of former MTRCB Chief Armida Siguion-Reyna to win. Melon wrote to say she does not think so, arguing that Locsin's vote "will only come from the elite, and this is even divided among the three of us, as we have more or less the same friends and acquaintances." Because her two rivals are far better known than her, Melon's being billed as the David in the race. "Yes, I'm the David because I do not have the obscene cash being floated around," she says, but she claims to have very solid supporters, including at the grass-roots level. Besides, Melon is now cashing in her goodwill chips: many of her needy scholars in the past are now grown up and married, and helping her campaign.

* * *

Yesterday I featured the response of GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia to the complaint of small- and medium-sized insurance brokers that his recent order directing the GSIS' insurance arm to course all reinsurance requirements to the quasi-private National Reinsurance Corp. would deprive them of a lot of business and bring them close to bankruptcy, even as it favors only a chosen few close to Garcia. The GSIS chief stressed that insuring pieces of property is "not a social mission, but a pragmatic decision," and that the management's thinking is to give its business to reinsurance companies who have qualified under the GSIS criteria of selection. He reminded those who have failed to make the grade to improve their level of competence to meet the GSIS' standards, even as he assured them that "we are revisiting the policies we have adopted, with the view to improve them as necessary."

* * *

The State's idea of retirement for Joseph Estrada may be much more restrictive than what he has in mind, but if you ask Erap, he wants to retire in Palawan. You can't blame him, for Palawan remains a beautiful and virtually untouched country, with lots of mountains, blue sea and forests. In fact it is a melting pot for people from various regions and even abroad, lured by nature's myriad wonders and its new-frontier possibilities. One of them is former Ramos Defense Assistant Secretary Lulu Ilustre of Batangas who operates the Palawan Broadcasting Corp. Another is restaurateur Zeny Alli Mendoza, formerly of Iloilo, who runs the Badjao Seafood Restaurant in Puerto Princesa City. Both of them moved to Palawan in the '60s.

Over dinner during our recent visit in connection with the first death anniversary of former Speaker Monching Mitra, Lulu and Zeny recalled how Puerto Princesa was once a one-car frontier town where people knew each other. In the old days, we could send things to and from Manila through the PAL passengers because we know all of them, recalled Lulu. Now when we ride on a plane, we realize how few people we know.

* * *

Among the recent migrants to Palawan are our good friends, Oscar Evangelista, who retired last year from the UP as longtime professor and vice chancellor of Diliman, and his American writer-wife Susan, a longtime professor in interdisciplinary studies at the Ateneo University. Before their retirement they scouted around for an alternative to Manila and chose Puerto Princesa. We visited them in the hilly outskirts where they built a lovely two-story house designed by their architect son, next door to two foreigners equally smitten by the proximity to the mountains and the sea, away from Manila's hassle and traffic.

An alternative feminist

YOUNGBLOOD

Fides Angeli G. Sabio

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I AM a feminist. As rabid as Rina Jimenez-David who writes a column in this widely read newspaper. I don't, however, share her views on the role of women, motherhood and marriage. Let me explain.

Marriage and motherhood are indeed ordained goals in a woman's life, inasmuch as marriage and fatherhood are those of men. They are simply part of the natural law and supernatural law. Marriage and parenthood, however, are not the only goals in women and men's lives. As Ms David at one time pointed out, nuns may be defying a natural law. In fact, I think in the case of nuns and those who choose to remain single for God, supernatural law supersedes the natural one. Those people, in pursuing their call, have made a better choice.

This is not the case, however, with women who make what Ms David calls "unconventional" choices. By "unconventional" choices I presume that, among others, she refers to the following: going into a relationship with a man to have a child but with no marriage contract attached; or getting married but not wanting to have children; or going into same-sex relationships. Women who make these choices are indeed going against the natural law. This time, however, it is not in favor of a supernatural one. Perhaps it is in favor of their own selves. They say they are merely exercising their own rights. Does choosing in favor of oneself make an action unnatural? Yes, if it means defying God's laws. A woman who defies God's laws is not being true to herself. She is ruining herself. Media, and some media personalities, on the other hand, make us believe otherwise. God does not star in MTVs or in the movies. He is often out of the picture.

There is also often an open defiance of His laws. Of course, we always have the choice to obey his laws or not; but there are consequences to our choices. In the natural and physical sphere, the consequences are usually obvious and come almost immediately. Like, if I decide to defy the law of gravity and jump out of a 10-story building, the consequences are predictable and obvious. This is not always the case in the moral sphere. If I decide to defy God's moral laws, the consequences are not as quick in coming. In fact, I may even get into a complacent delusion that there is no God to reckon with my moral decisions, twisted or otherwise.

The book of Proverbs says: "Who shall find a valiant woman? Far and from the uttermost coasts is the price of her. Favor is deceitful and beauty is vain: the woman that fears the Lord, she shall be praised." Obviously, this kind of woman puts God first in her life. If she is single, she will always make sure her relationships are at the very least a triad: God, herself and the other person. If she is married, a God-fearing, or maybe better put, a God-loving woman always mindful of her duties to her family. Being a good mother and wife does not become an "oppressive expectation" of society but a loving duty. In fact, this kind of woman may end up realizing that motherhood, too, is a vocation. God calls her to serve him by serving her family well, even if this means going through many different sacrifices.

When I think of a God-fearing woman who embodies the Bible passage I just quoted, I automatically think of my mother. She gave up her ambition to become a lawyer after she married one. She not only had to take care of his needs but also those of five children who came after. The man she married proceeded to become a successful lawyer, ending up as a justice in the Court of Appeals. She, however, satisfied herself with an eight to five job. She has not pleaded her case. She has not regretted the decisions she made in the past. Judging by the way her children turned out (myself, included), I would say that she had done an excellent job as a wife and mother. She continues to do so, and is always trying to supersede her past achievements in "mothering and wifing." She never had the "oppressive-expectation-of-women-by-society" complex. On the contrary, she always fostered her love for the home and domestic concerns. So naturally, this love passed on to me. Moreover, when I encountered Blessed Josemaria Escriva's teachings on the role of women in society, I understood them perfectly and decided to make them part of my life because I had a living example to look at in the person of my mother. Blessed Josemaria Escriva provided the doctrine and my mother had long before practiced it.

So, guess where I ended up? For the first seven years of my working life, I taught underprivileged young women in a domestic technical-vocational school. Schools of this kind are directly inspired by Blessed Josemaria Escriva's teachings. In materiality, working there wasn't exactly like what my mother did, but in essence it was the same. I, too, decided to put my legal ambitions on hold in order to do some domestic-related task. This is why I call myself an alternative feminist. Domestic work is not glamorous or as materially rewarding as other jobs done in this country. I think, however, that the remuneration is simply out of this world. Some of my friends say "*sayang*." I say, "If only I had seven more years or maybe a lifetime—to continue doing it." Circumstances change, however. In any case, I want to thank my mother and Blessed Josemaria Escriva for making me see what a woman should be. Thank you for inspiring me to be a feminist—of the kind you can be proud of.

Fides Angeli G. Sabio, 29, is a part-time teacher at the International School Manila. She finished her Humanities-Philosophy course at the University of Asia and the Pacific and currently doing her Masters in Philosophy at the University of Sto. Tomas.

'Bombshell' turns dud

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SOMEONE who was at the taping of a recent episode of "Isyu 101" that focused on the mayoral candidates in Manila says that former Mayor Fred Lim lobbed a "bombshell" at incumbent Mayor Lito Atienza in the course of their heated discussion.

At one point, says my source, Lim accused Atienza of consorting with a "known" drug dealer, an accusation that Atienza fended off by claiming that yes, he knew the drug dealer, but only because he was introduced to the dealer by Lim.

That exchange would have been explosive enough, but the real puzzler is that when the episode finally aired, that "bombshell" no longer figured in the footage. The portion had apparently been edited out.

Why? And who was responsible for air brushing, as it were, that mutual and potentially damaging revelation of links to the drug dealers of either Atienza or Lim?

For the sake of transparency, I must admit that this tidbit was provided by someone in the camp of the third "major" contender for the post of mayor of Manila, former Rep. Amado Bagatsing. Bagatsing, if you don't know it yet, is the official People Power Coalition candidate. But if rumblings from within the Bagatsing camp are to be believed, it seems that someone very close to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has been hobnobbing with Atienza. The incumbent mayor is using this "I-am-very-close-to-no-less-than…" gambit apparently to court the support of potential funders, who naturally would throw their resources behind whoever is the "fair-haired boy" of the powers-that-be.

* * *

"WHY is this going on?" asks this Bagatsing supporter. "Does the President know about this? Doesn't she realize that it is important for her administration party to gain control of Manila, since to the rest of the world, Manila IS the Philippines?"

Bagatsing is bruited to be the "real" winner in the 1998 mayoral contest, had it not been for certain irregularities in the counting of votes. Perhaps it's because of the way the counting was done in Manila that the city's election registrar has petitioned the Comelec to transfer the site of the official canvassing from the City Hall to the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. If I remember right, Atienza's opponents in 1998 were seething that they had been "locked out" from the canvassing site and that Atienza's operatives had access to "secret" entrances and exits.

The Bagatsing camp is thus appealing "to our donors, volunteers, mandated organizations and the principled voters to help us ensure Bagatsing's victory at the polls on election day. We must make sure we do not lose the gains we have made in Edsa I and II."

* * *

CONTINUING a series on women running for electoral posts in these elections, I must make mention of Nitz Chauhan, who is running for vice governor of Nueva Ecija under the ticket of Rico Fajardo, who is running for governor. The Fajardo-Chauhan tandem is really tilting at windmills, since they are up against the formidable Joson clan and machinery.

Nitz deserves special mention since she would have been the No. 3 nominee of Abanse! Pinay had she not decided to go for the vice-governorship. Before plunging into politics, Nitz was a ranking official of the Central Luzon State University in Cabanatuan, as well as a well-known human rights lawyer.

Upon her nomination by Abanse! Pinay, Nitz was thrown into a quandary because she would have had to resign from her post. But she decided to live out her commitment to women in politics and said since she was eligible for retirement, she would simply take this option. Then came the offer to run for vice governor, which she has apparently a good chance of winning given her wide network in the province. We wish you all the best, Nitz!

With the withdrawal of Nitz Chauhan, Abanse! Pinay had to replace her with Bacolod-based lawyer and civic leader Andrea Lizares-Si. Our No. 4 nominee is Remmy Rikken, Abanse! Pinay secretary general and former executive director of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW). Our No. 5 nominee is Lina Tan, a respected church worker and civic leader in Dagupan who chairs the Abanse! Pinay chapter in Pangasinan.

* * *

STILL on women-power…

I think it's a big deal that a woman, Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste, played such a crucial role in the negotiations for the release of Maj. Noel Buan from his NPA captors. Loren was part of a humanitarian mission, together with Catholic Bishop Jesus Varela, among others, which persisted in mediating for Buan's release despite resistance from both the military and government on one side, and the CPP-NPA-NDF on the other.

But other than the "Crying Senator" Loren, another woman who deserves credit for Buan's release is none other than his wife Cielo, who persisted in her efforts even when everybody told her she might as well consider her husband dead.

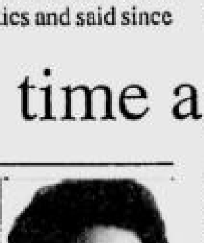
Well do I remember the TV interviews and articles with Cielo Buan, which would crop up periodically in the media as if to remind the public that Major Buan was still alive and could be returned to his waiting family if only there were enough goodwill on both sides of the conflict.

Indeed, it may be largely the men who may be trained for combat, but their families also deserve credit for their moral support and sacrifice. Would that every man or woman in the military and police forces find a spouse with the strength of spirit and fortitude of Cielo Buan.

Yuck! It's kitsch time again

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



WHAT is remarkable about public architecture in Manila is that so much of it is so bad (probably the rest of the country too since the provinces take their lead from Imperial Manila. You should see the more than P30-million catastrophe in Cebu's Parian district; another of those negotiated deals). From past experience we have observed the process by which projects and sites are chosen and designs approved riddled with politics and plain old-fashioned greed. It would be vastly amusing if it weren't so visually distressing how the mayors of Metro Manila decide that being elected officials, this gives them the imprimatur for decisions on landscape architecture and designs of public monuments. (It's like parish priests tampering with centuries-old churches, so it must be a national trait.) The last design competition must have been for Jose Rizal's statue during the American period. Everything nowadays is a negotiated contract. Out of curiosity, will someone please name one monument, building or memorial built after the war that speaks directly to the Filipino spirit?

The past decade has seen monuments to mediocrity and pomposity, not to mention official egos that foul up the cities even more than they already are. Take a look at the new justice building incongruously crammed on an obviously too small lot on Padre Faura; the *patche-patche* brass statues of Bonifacio one following the other on Taft Avenue; those nasty everted bowls passing off as fountains in front of the neo-classical Post Office building of Juan Arellano; and Ninoy Aquino's uninspiring statue installed on a corner of the historic district of Intramuros. Now, Ninoy may be a hero and martyr but he had nothing to do with the history of Intramuros. To have placed it in front of the Senate building in the reclaimed area made much more sense except that its in Pasay and not in Manila and did not serve the mayor's purpose. They remind us all too vividly that public architecture left to government is a recipe for disaster. In the meantime, it's your money that's being spent and it is truly beyond me why it doesn't bother the tax-paying public. We really must be masochists suffering from abused people syndrome. That or there's something wrong with our IQ.

Now, unless a knight in shining armor gets voted mayor of Manila, the nation's capital is about to be cursed with more of the same. The Mehan Garden stands to be obliterated since the City College will occupy what will only be a distant memory of open space. There's that putrid Boardwalk project that new Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon is pursuing, and, horrors, a miniature version of a rice paddy in the Rizal Park. Director Antonio Mercado apparently wasn't satisfied with dumping a Jollibee concession on prime park property, now it's kitsch time again. One would wish they'd spend their own money rather than the public's but we're obviously gluttons for punishment.

It isn't as though the Rizal Park isn't crowded enough, what with buildings and other structures constructed over the years in that meager piece of land calling itself a park. Now we've got a Rice Garden conceived presumably by the Presidential Commission for the New Century and the Millennium. The rationale behind the project is that "many Filipinos are growing old not knowing how our farmers grow rice or, worse, how a rice plant looks like." One imagines that if government had had a logical land-use plan, rice land in the adjoining provinces of Cavite, Laguna and Bulacan would not have been sold for the development of export zones and subdivisions and the problem would not have arisen. The handout goes on to say ironically that rice is the staple food of 8 out of every 10 of us and the source of living of 7 out of every 10. It doesn't mention that we import this prime commodity despite our vital need for it.

Whoever wrote that handout was something else. Listen to this: "Rice has made life livable (huh?) to our great-grandparents. It will do the same to our great-grandchildren. Rice will outlive us all." Even running that by me a couple of times didn't make it any clearer. Do these people read their own blurbs?

It seems the commission was driven to cover the park with more structures to educate the Filipino about rice. One can't help wonder how much this little exercise cost the Filipino who can barely afford to buy the basic commodities these days. How about educating the public about the need for open space?

In the meantime, of course, there's no memorial to the Battle of Manila despite the momentous place World War II occupies in the history of this nation and the world. An appropriate commemoration of the thousands who died should have been the priority in this city as soon as the war ended. Yet, more than 50 years later, neither national nor local government has bothered. Instead we're getting more kitsch.

Unfortunately few are willing to speak out. Architect associations, planners, historians, veterans and others seldom break their silence. And even if they did as in the case of the Jai-Alai demolition, would City Hall or the national government bother? Don't hold your breath waiting.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO …?

Ermita 'rubout'

SUSPECTED robbers Alih Gozal Malges, Nashrudin Talipasan and Suharto Kanakan were gunned down on Oct. 13, 1998, near a creek in the vicinity of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas in Ermita, Manila. They died of gunshot and stab wounds. Also killed was PO2 Danilo Callo. (PDI, 10/14/98) Another suspected robber, identified as Armando Tumilis, was also killed that same day in UN Avenue.

The investigation conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation showed that the three suspected robbers were killed by the Western Police District SWAT team composed of Police Insp. Santiago Pascual III, SPO4 Rodolfo Cabral, SPO2 Reynaldo Antonio, PO2 Larry Punzalan and Callo. The team had earlier arrested the suspects while they were on board a taxicab allegedly on their way to meet their boss. The policemen claimed the suspects tried to escape and started the shooting.

Tumilis, with an unidentified suspect, fled. He died in an encounter following a chase by Pascual, Callo and Cabral.

The NBI, however, discovered that the suspects tested negative for powder burns and showed signs they were shot at close range.

On March 3, 1999, three counts of murder were filed against Pascual, Cabral, Antonio and Punzalan with the Manila Regional Trial Court. The cases were raffled off to Judge Manuel Muro of Branch 54. They filed a petition for bail on March 15. They said that the evidence against them was not strong and that there were no eyewitness to the incident. The accused were then detained at the Manila City Jail.

The accused pleaded not guilty when arraigned on March 18. On the same day, they filed a motion to allow them to be put in the custody of Chief Supt. Efren Fernandez, WPD director. But on March 23, Fernandez advised the court that he had no control over the accused since they were already reassigned to the NCR Regional Mobile Group based in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig. The court then ordered the transfer of all the accused to Camp Bagong Diwa. Senior Supt. Virtus Gil, chief of the Regional Headquarters Support Group, informed the court on March 26 that the accused were in his custody.

On Oct. 14, 1999, the prosecution asked the court to preventively suspend all the accused and commit them to the Manila City Jail. The prosecution said that all the accused are "roaming around with their guns and uniforms and not placed under detention in the City Jail of Manila" They also argued that murder is a capital offense where no bail is allowed. The prosecution added that Gil's custody of the accused is in gross violation of existing laws. The court denied this on Oct. 27 for lack of merit

On Jan. 18, 2000, the accused filed a motion to dismiss two of the three counts of murder filed against them. Complainants and heirs of Malges and Talipasan have filed separate affidavits of desistance. In their affidavits, the complainants said that after reviewing the incident, they concluded that no murder occurred since what transpired on Oct. 13, 1998 was a shootout. On Aug. 21, 2000, the heirs of Kanakan also filed their affidavit of desistance. They also claimed that a shootout took place.

Case status: Although the prosecution is set to present their witnesses, the trial could not proceed because Judge Muro was suspended last August for his alleged involvement in the Yu Yuk Lai drug case.

Armin P. Adina, PDI Research Depariment

LETTERS

13-0 is quite achievable

AFTER READING Neal H. Cruz's column, "PPC can't get 13-0 unless it cheats," (PDI, 3/30/01) I was disgusted and dismayed.

I asked myself, " Why did the editors of the INQUIRER allow the column? Cruz was unfair to the People Power Coalition candidates and their supporters and campaign managers. He was even unfair to the candidates of deposed President Joseph Estrada, whose names he did not mention; whereas, he named three candidates of Estrada, whom he thinks will win.

I even wondered why Cruz attacked PNP Chief Leandro Mendoza and Executive Secretary Renato de Villa. They are irrelevant and immaterial to the question whether the 13 PPC candidates, or four, three, two or one of them will cheat to win in the elections.

However, after reading Rigoberto Tiglao's column titled, "The arithmetic of the Senate elections," (PDI, 3/30/01) I was relieved. I realized that the editors of the INQUIRER had wisely allowed the publication of the two columns on the same day (March 30, 2001) in order to present and balance two opposing and contrasting views.

I am glad that Tiglao was able to analyze the statistics of the Social Weather Stations' surveys in Feb. 2-7, 2001 and March 5-12, 2001, and project the possibility that the 13 PPC senatorial candidates can all win without cheating.

As a concerned citizen and a voter, I'm hoping and praying that the passion and the patriotism of the People Power of Edsa II will be sustained and will prevail over the other candidates on the May 14, 2001 elections.

If all the influential members of media can get their act together to wage a relentless and continuous campaign to educate the electors to vote intelligently, and even get the nonvoters to campaign courageously for qualified, competent and upright candidates, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's candidates will win and the proposed moral revolution from the top can be launched and concretized.

Regardless of the surveys, threats, gold, guns and goons, if the PPC senatorial candidates will unite and campaign as a team, they will all win.—**ISIDORO A. PANLASIGUI JR., 6 Big Horseshoe Drive, Horseshoe Village, Quezon City**

New law on film classification needed

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's power to prevent any film in the country from being exhibited derives from the archaic law creating the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board. Presidential Decree 1986, signed into law in 1985, was a Marcos decree, the primary purpose of which was to prevent films and television programs with "subversive" themes from being shown to the public. But it also empowers the board to delete scenes from any film on the grounds of immorality, indecency and even damage "to the prestige of the Republic of the Philippines and its people or its duly constituted authority..."

PD 1986 does provide the board with classificatory powers—in much of the civilized world the only regulatory prerogative governments enjoy over films—but it also empowers the board to ban a film outright by giving it an "X" rating. In addition, the president of the Philippines may ban any film passed by the board. This was the power President Macapagal exercised the when she banned the film "Live Show."

Over the last several years, as the contradictions inherent in PD 1986 caused a number of controversies, among them the banning of "The Last Temptation of Christ" and the attempt to ban "Schindler's List," media advocacy, artists' and filmmakers' groups have urged its repeal. The repeal of PD 1986 would abolish the MTRCB. In its place, a self-regulatory body composed of individuals from the film industry, civil society and academe has been proposed.

This proposal deserves serious study toward implementation, film being the only mass medium and art form currently under close government regulation. The body envisioned would limit itself to classifying films and would have no censorship powers. It would protect minors from viewing films they cannot yet appreciate, and enhance the capacity of mature viewers to make free choices as to the films they want to see.

It would also eliminate the present law's conflict with the 1987 Constitution, and provide substance to the protection of free expression provided for in Article III, Section 4 of that basic document. ("No law shall be passed abridging the freedom of speech, of expression, or of the press or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and petition the government for redress of grievances.") Such a body would at the same time encourage greater responsibility and self-regulation among film producers and filmmakers.

PD 1986's being currently in force does not prevent its being liberally interpreted, however. The Armida Siguion-Reyna board and Nicanor Tiongson's would probably have been equally liberal if given the chance—saw its role as basically classificatory. It did prevent demonstrably unworthy films from being shown, but it also allowed films with socially redeeming value to be shown to mature audiences. Nevertheless, the ultimate solution is in changing the law for a better one.

In the current controversy two things are clear. First, the ban on a film hastily but unjustly condemned as pornographic by Jaime Cardinal Sin and certain Church groups is contrary to the protection of free expression guaranteed by the 1987 Constitution. Second, the Macapagal administration, by overruling on the strength of Church objections an earlier decision by the MTRCB to allow the showing of the film to audiences 18 years old and above, has established a precedent of Church intervention in State matters President Macapagal censored a film—and censored it on the say-so of an institution from which the State is supposed to be separate. The principle of the separation of Church and State does not prevent Church people from expressing their views on matters of the State. But it does prevent them from making State policy.

Censorship and Church intervention in State matters are both contrary to the letter and spirit of the Constitution, and must be opposed by everyone with a stake in the mass media, including film. This means everyone—from artists to media practitioners, from academics to the ordinary moviegoers, whatever their calling. But we also urge the Macapagal administration to seriously rethink what could eventually be a State policy on film—and to work for the passage of a law on films worthy of a free people. As the child and beneficiary of People Power II—a mass action by millions of people disgusted with incompetence and corruption, in the success of which free expression was a critical factor—the Macapagal administration should be the last to suppress that basic right. —**MELINDA QUINTOS DE JESUS AND LUIS V. TEODORO, Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility, 2nd Floor, Ateneo Professional Schools, 130 HV dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City**

Chastity and celibacy

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

ALLOW Catholic priests to marry and the sexual abuse will stop. This is a popular view going around these days following the exposés about Catholic priests sexually abusing nuns in several countries including the Philippines.

It's a flawed proposition. I could write more about the problem of sexual abuse which is a terribly complicated problem, but I wanted to focus on the issue of celibacy, including what it can, and can't do.

A good place to start is to clarify that celibacy is different from chastity. Celibacy is not marrying while chastity simply means purity, a term which is itself open to many interpretations. I should point out, too, that chastity is not the same either as abstinence. My old college Webster's dictionary offers this definition: "abstinence from all unlawful sexual activity: said especially of women." So, there—a person can be celibate and not chaste or, conversely, can be non-celibate and chaste. Here's an even more daring proposition: One can be sexually active yet celibate and chaste.

There are several reasons given for the Catholic clergy's vow of celibacy. The Catholic Encyclopedia defines celibacy as a "renunciation of marriage" with many possible functions. Mainly, it is seen as a way toward "more perfect observance of chastity," but it is also described as a form of sacrifice, and as a way of emulating Christ. Another view, which was very eloquently explained by Fr. Ed Mercado during a recent episode of "Talkback with Tina," is that celibacy offers an inner sanctum, in a sense creating space for God.

Now, all that is the official rhetoric. What is the popular view, especially among Filipinos? A Social Weather Stations survey a few years back showed that something like 80 percent of Filipinos oppose optional celibacy for priests, much higher than many other Catholic countries. My impression from talking with people is that Filipinos expect priests to be "holy" and see this celibacy as an indispensable part of that holiness. Unfortunately, this is rooted in the idea, propagated by the more conservative Catholics, that sex is profane and defiling. One can even say there is a misogynist element in here—what defiles the priest is the contact with women.

Our perceptions of priests are actually quite ambivalent. On one hand, we expect them to be celibate and "holy." On the other hand, many Filipinos know all too well that there's a priest (or bishop) in many Filipino family trees, and I mean as an ancestor. Given this history, and a still strong popular view that men are by nature driven by their sexual urges, Filipinos almost expect a priest to "fall." I used to work with the Catholic church's social action programs and remember how gossip of the priests' and bishops' sexual peccadilloes were favorite fare among people, including parish workers themselves.

Priests know people are always watching them and this puts them on the defensive, often pushing them to terrible isolation. Some years back, one seminarian complained to me, "If I am seen with a woman they say I am a womanizer. If I am seen with a man, they say I am *bakla*. If I am seen with a child, they say I am a pedophile."

It is depressing to see young seminarians and priests being forced into this social isolation, deprived of opportunities to develop intimate friendships of any kind. Is it surprising that with the passage of time, many eventually lose contact with social reality and turn judgmental and moralistic?

I will say that I consider celibacy a valid and admirable choice for life. History has many examples of famous people who opted for celibacy—Leonardo da Vinci, Isaac Newton, Florence Nightingale, Mahatma Gandhi (who was actually married but later opted to abstain from conjugal relations). For many of these people, celibacy and abstinence were considered an integral part of their commitment to work, or to a political cause.

A little digression here—Christian celibacy actually offered an alternative path for women. In many cultures, a woman had no identity of her own unless she married. Christianity offered celibacy as a pious option for women, but eventually, women saw this, too, as a way of escaping male tyranny. In the Middle Ages, women from the European aristocracy sometimes entered the convent, or established their own religious orders, as a way of escaping marriage, while retaining the rights of inheritance.

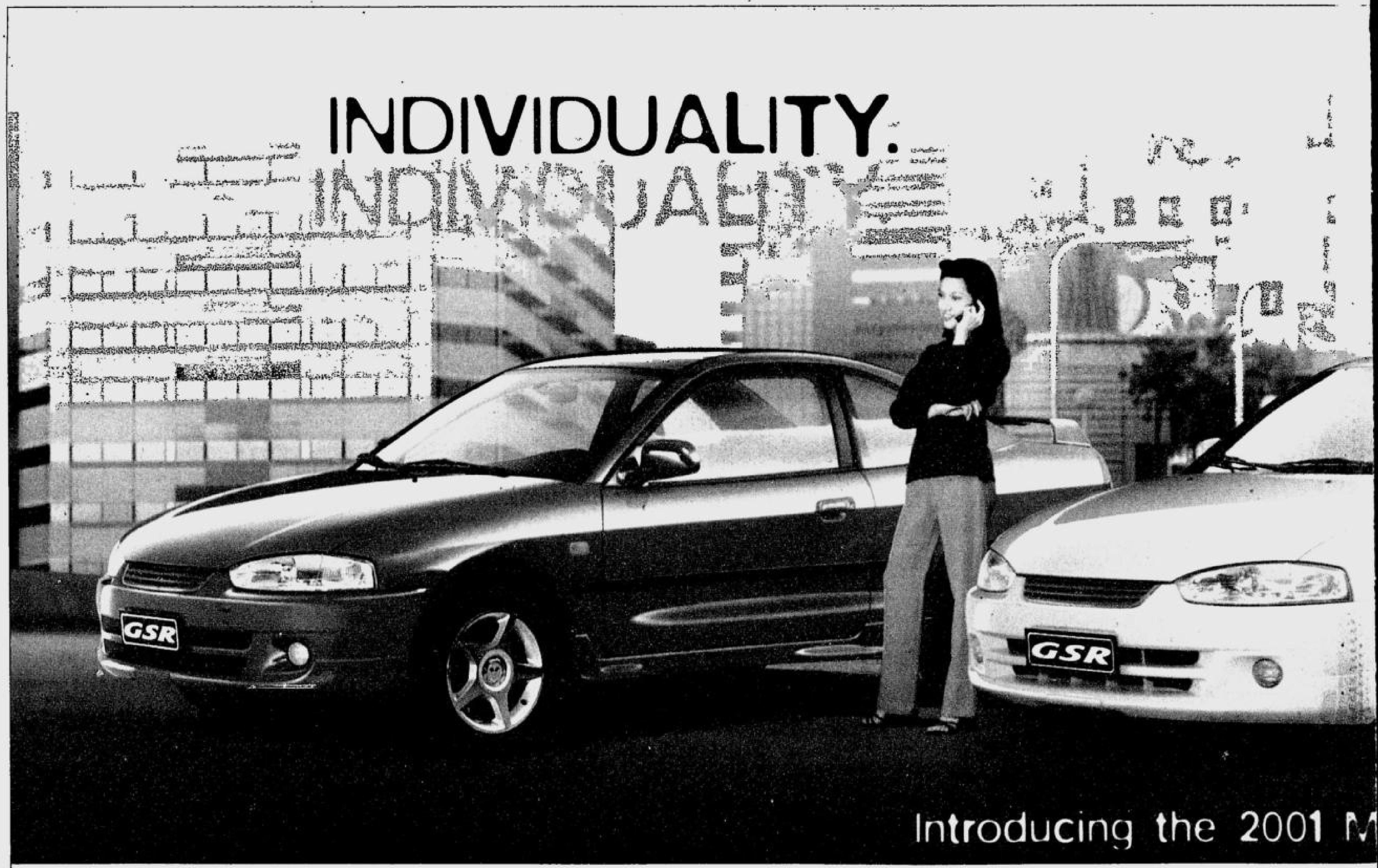
People who oppose celibacy among priests say that by not marrying, the priests will never understand family life and are therefore handicapped when it comes to this aspect of their pastoral work. I would agree to some extent but I don't think this should be the main reason for making celibacy optional. Physicians can heal without having to go through an illness. (Tempting as the comparison may be, I am not saying marriage is an illness.)

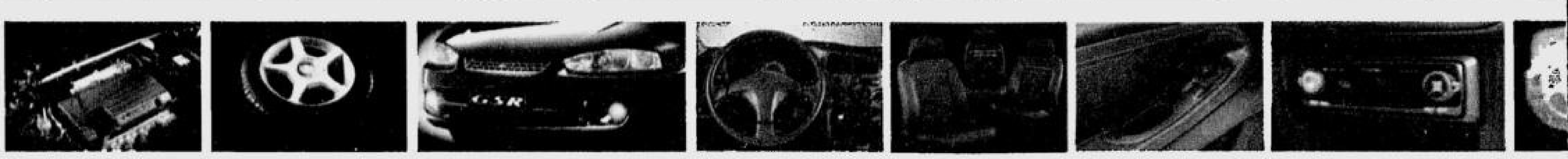
As for the idea that a married priest might mean less sexual abuse, I'm afraid this is based on a distorted view of sex as an "urge" ready to explode. It's a simplistic view that actually comes from the moralists, people who think society is full of temptations—remember the columnist (not from the INQUIRER) who wrote that "Live Show" might incite priests to rape? The idea then is to allow priests to marry because this domesticates their sex drive. It's really St. Paul all over again with his advice, "It is better to marry than to burn in hell." I think it's a misogynist proposition, reducing marriage, and wives, to an outlet for the male's sex drive.

Let's not use celibacy to draw artificial distinctions between the holy and unholy, or to reinforce primitive views of sex and sexuality. Priests and nuns who remain faithful to their vows of celibacy and chastity are to be extolled, but there are as many committed people among the religious who opt to marry.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.org





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The WORLD

US: Prolonged standoff can damage ties

WASHINGTON—As the standoff over the detained crew of a downed American spy plane entered its second week, top US government officials said a quick resolution was crucial to avoid further straining US-China relations.

POWELL

Continued delay in sending the 24 Americans home could have repercussions in the US legislature, said members of Congress, citing a possible trade fight later this year and an upcoming decision on US weapons sales to Taiwan.

The administration refused again Sunday to apologize for the collision between a Chinese fighter jet and the US plane, which was forced to make an emergency landing on an island in southern China. The Chinese jet and its pilot are missing.

Over the weekend, the Chinese military took a tough stance on who was to blame and has called for an end to the surveillance flights.

US officials said the flights will continue.

Secretary of State Colin Powell said the United States was "sorry" about the pilot's fate as he used a word the administration has generally avoided. But he emphasized the United States should not and will not apologize for the collision of the planes.

Powell, Vice President Dick Cheney and the president's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, said an extended standoff threatened to make it harder to repair relations between the two countries.

"I don't want to put a timetable on it; every day that goes by without having it resolved raises the risks to the long-term relationship," Cheney said on NBC television's "Meet the Press."

Administration officials were careful to avoid spelling out specific consequences of further delay.

Shifting from a diplomatic to a personal level, the White House said the president had answered the missing pilot's distraught wife, who had written Bush and accused his administration of being "too cowardly" to offer an apology.

Bush's letter was sent Sunday to the US Embassy in Beijing which would forward it to the Chinese Foreign Ministry for delivery to the pilot's wife, the White House said. The text of the letter was not available.

"The purpose of the letter is to respond in a humanitarian way, in an American way, to a widow who is grieving," Powell said on TV's "Fox News Sunday." "Whatever you think about the politics of it, she's lost her husband."

"We have expressed regrets, we've expressed our sorrow, and we are sorry that a life was lost," Powell said, referring to the missing pilot.

In comparison, he offered this explanation for the U.S. position on an apology to Beijing for the collision: "The question of apology is something quite different, because then we are being asked to accept responsibility. And that we have not done, can't do, and therefore won't apologize for that."

Cheney rejected the description of the crew as "hostages" by Rep. Henry Hyde, a Republican from Illinois. Cheney said the United States has access to them and they were being treated well. But Sen. Christopher Dodd, a Democrat from Connecticut, said. "We're getting precariously close to that."

Bush spent the weekend at the presidential retreat Camp David, conferring with aides, including Rice and senior adviser Karen Hughes. Rice said Bush had not personally called Chinese President Jiang Zemin because that is an option he can use one time and "one wants to use when it really might make a difference."

In China, US Ambassador Joseph Prueher had two meetings Sunday with Chinese officials and reported back to State Department officials. *AP*

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Conditions set for Megawati to replace Wahid as president

JAKARTA—The largest single party in Indonesia's parliament has set three conditions for its leader, Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri, to replace incumbent Abdurrahman Wahid as head of state, one of its senior officials said Monday.

There is growing speculation that Megawati's ascension to the presidency might be the only way to break a longrunning political crisis in which Wahid faces possible impeachment for corruption.

Legislator Jacob Tobing, a close Megawati aide, said the party wants to cancel annual meetings of the People's Consultative Assembly, which is tasked with electing a president and has the powers of impeachment.

They demand that the vice presidency be left vacant if she becomes head of state, thus reducing the danger of future leadership challenges against her.

They also insist that the parliament agrees not to oust Megawati before the current presidential term expires in 2004.

"If the conditions are met, Megawati is ready to become president," he said.

He denied a newspaper report that Megawati, who rarely speaks in public about her political ambitions, had issued the three demands herself. Instead they had been set by her party, he said.

Several parliamentary factions have called for Wahid to be replaced by Megawati, whose party controls about a third of the seats in the 500-member legislature.

Parliament in February took the first step toward impeaching Wahid, censuring him for his alleged involvement in two corruption scandals. The president has denied any wrongdoing and vowed to remain in office.

Legislators will decide at the end of April whether to censure him for a second time, taking a step closer to ousting him.

Wahid, a prominent Muslim leader, became Indonesia's first freely elected president after four decades of dictatorship in October 1999 when he beat Megawati in a ballot by legislators.

At that time there were high hopes that he would fix a range of crippling communal and economic problems facing the Southeast Asian nation.

However, his erratic style of governing plus his failure to deliver on promises of democratic and financial reform, soured his relations with the parliament and led to the present political turmoil.

In other news, President Abdurrahman Wahid blasted the United States Monday for its embargo on weapons sales to Indonesia and said the military would procure arms elsewhere to deal with the multiple crises threatening the country's unity.

"We should not give in to intimidation by anybody," Wahid said after attending the commemoration of the 55th anniversary of the Indonesian Air Force.

"We don't need to depend on one country," Wahid said. "We have to be able to carry out diversification of aircraft to defend our nation."

The Clinton administration froze military ties and weapons sales in the aftermath of a rampage by the Indonesian army in East Timor in 1999 when hundreds of people were killed and much of the territory devastated.

Indonesia's military brass said the ban had hampered its ability to deal with escalating separatist rebellions in Aceh and Irian Jaya provinces, a sectarian conflict in the Maluku islands, and intercommunal violence on Borneo island in which 500 people died in February.

Wahid's comments came just minutes after military commander Adm. Widodo Adisutjipto warned that a "multidimensional crisis" is threatening the unity of the sprawling Southeast Asian archipelago.

The United States has traditionally been Indonesia's main weapons supplier, and annual arms sales peaked at over $400 million in the early 1990s.

As well as facing rising communal violence and separatist conflicts, Indonesia is currently battling a crippling economic downturn and budgetary deficit blowout. Wahid did not say how his cash-strapped administration would be able to fund arms purchases.

Defense Minister Mohammad Mahfud said last month that Indonesin was trying to procure military equipment from nations whose governments did not object to its human rights record.

He said only two of the 26 US-built Hercules C-130 transports were airworthy during the bloodshed in Borneo because of a shortage of spare parts. This prevented the air force from flying in army and police reinforcements. *AP*

INDONESIAN Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri (right), accompanied by Military Commander Admiral Widodo AS, watch a performance by jet fighters at the marking of the 55th anniversary of the country's air force in Jakarta April 9. The second-largest party in parliament said on Monday it would support Megawati if she were to take over the embattled presidency. REUTERS

EU ponders farming's future as FMD rages

OESTERSUND, Sweden—European Union agriculture ministers started three days of talks Sunday with a debate on how to make food "safe, sustainable and ethical," but the shadow of foot-and-mouth disease will follow them to their Swedish lakeside retreat.

The talks were originally planned as a chance for the 15 ministers to escape everyday business at EU headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, to reflect informally on the future of farming.

Instead the meeting will be dominated by an epidemic of foot-and-mouth disease.

Ministers will once again consider a wider use of vaccination to halt the advance of the virus.

Britain will update other nations on its fight to curtail the outbreak that has infected more than 1,000 farms, and other ministers will outline their strategies for keeping the disease at bay.

German Agriculture Minister Renate Kuenast said she would seek permission to vaccinate German animals on the farms close to the Netherlands if there was an outbreak on Dutch farms near the border.

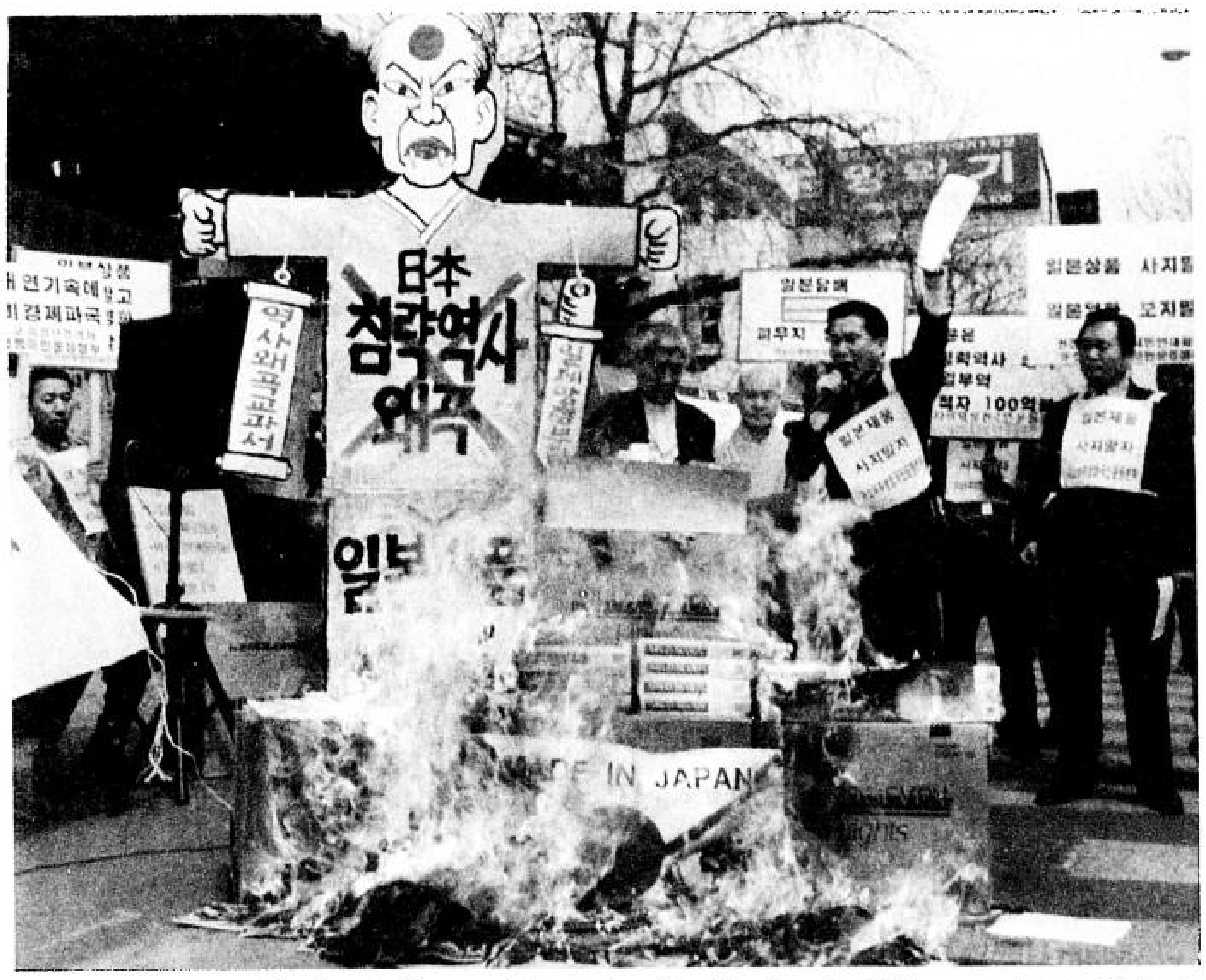
Kuenast added she wanted to widen the vaccination program for zoos that has so far been limited to those within 25 km of an infected farm.

However, officials stressed there was no support for a Europe-wide vaccination policy to stop the spread of the disease.

"We don't think its a good idea to change strategy when we are in the middle of a crisis," said Christer Wretborn, head of European Affairs at the Swedish Agriculture ministry.

In the Netherlands, a farmer revolt escalated this weekend in the eastern village of Kootwijkerbroek against the national government's clearing of cattle and sheep in a 200 sq.-km contaminated area to create a firewall against the livestock ailment.

Farmers blockaded roads, preventing trucks from hauling away carcasses of animals that had been slaughtered. About 200 farmers clashed with police for four hours late Saturday, and one man was arrested after he tried to run over a policeman with a bulldozer, a town official said. *AP*



SOUTH Korean protesters burn imported Japanese history books and an effigy of a nationalist Japanese at a protest to launch a civic campaign to boycott Japanese products in Seoul, April 9. A Japanese textbook written by nationalist historians for use in Japan has drawn criticism from across Asia for whitewashing Japanese atrocities during World War II. REUTERS

Seoul to recall envoy to Tokyo in book furor

SEOUL—South Korea will recall its ambassador to Japan to protest a recently approved history textbook that it believes obscures World War II Japanese atrocities in Asia, the government said Monday.

South Korean Ambassador Choi Sang-ryong will return to Seoul on Tuesday for consultations with his home government on how South Korea should deal with the textbook issue, it said.

"The recall is temporary and will not continue for a lengthy period of time," Assistant Foreign Minister Lim Sung-joon told reporters.

The government has come under criticism for not taking a stronger stand in protesting the Japanese textbook that many South Koreans believe is a whitewash of Japan's colonial rule of the Korean peninsula in 1910-1945.

Civic groups have staged street demonstrations urging Japan to revise the controversial middle school textbook. The Japanese government has ruled out the possibility of a revision.

The Seoul government also plans to use a UN forum to ask for a revision of the textbook, the Foreign Ministry said.

Chung Ui-yong, Seoul's ambassador to UN offices in Geneva, Switzerland, was expected to take up the Japanese textbook issue in a speech at a UN Human Rights Committee meeting on Tuesday, said Oh Joong-taik, a Foreign Ministry official.

South Korean officials say the textbook, written by a group of Japanese nationalist professors, justifies Japan's invasion of Asia in the early 20th century and does not mention that Korean and other Asian women were forced into sexual slavery by Japanese troops.

Last week, Seoul lodged a complaint with Japan, saying the book's use could endanger their friendly relations. *AP*

Blaze hits Dutch airport

AMSTERDAM—Thousands of passengers were evacuated from Amsterdam's Schiphol international airport Sunday after a blaze from a fast-food outlet spread through parts of the facility.

An airport spokesman said there were no serious casualties. "Only one person experienced some discomfort because of light respiratory problems," he said.

Rail and road traffic to the airport—one of the world's busiest—was blocked for hours and flights were disrupted.

The fire broke out at a Burger King outlet in a shopping section of the airport and spread to 7th and 8th floor offices, probably through the fast-food store's extraction ducts, officials said.

Firefighters took about 40 minutes to bring the second blaze under control.

Early reports said the fire had been sparked by an explosion caused by an unidentified technical problem, possibly a malfunctioning boiler or oven, but airport officials later backtracked on the blast reports.

According to airport director general Gerlach Cerfontaine, the fire was caused by a large flame in the Burger King's kitchen.

"There is no indication that this incident occurred intentionally," Cerfontaine said. *AFP*

Big meet tackles online security

SAN FRANCISCO—Ten years ago, when most people still thought of computer hackers only as the nerdy henchmen to villains in science fiction movies, a group of fewer than 100 cryptographers got together in a Silicon Valley hotel to share ideas.

Now the Internet is a pervasive part of life, a platform where $657 billion worth of commerce was transacted last year, according to Forrester Research. With that figure expected to increase 10 times by 2004, online security has become a mainstream concern.

And that small cryptographers' gathering has exploded into a trade show and conference that is bringing more than 10,000 people to a San Francisco convention center this week. They will peruse exhibits by 250 security companies, chatter at a "cryptographers' gala" and gather for a closing ceremony featuring comedian Dana Carvey.

Lecture topics range from the arcane _ one is titled "On the Strength of Simply Iterated Feistel Ciphers with Whitening Keys" to the straightforward, like "Authenticity in e-Business."

The RSA Conference, named for the Bedford, Massachusetts-based security company that puts it together, began Sunday and runs through Thursday. In another sign that security has become important business, the sponsors include Intel, Microsoft, Hewlett-Packard, IBM and Compaq.

"I think the RSA thing has come of age, and people are taking the whole topic seriously," said Michael Ruehle, president and CEO of BioID America Inc., who plans to show off new technology from his company that scans a user's face, voice and lip movements for high-security identification.

Such biometric devices, which grant or deny access to users based on ironclad personal characteristics, have been available for years.

But even though ordinary passwords are easily stolen or forgotten, biometrics have yet to move into widespread use because of high cost and varying reliability.

Now, they could get a boost from the federal electronic signatures law that took effect last year. The measure grants legal legitimacy to documents approved or digitally "signed" online.

That is expected to drive up demand for anything used to initiate a digital signature—such as fingerprint readers and other biometric devices, or "smart cards" in which identification information is embedded.

Security experts expect biometrics soon will be commonly built into cell phones, handheld computers and anything else connecting to computer networks. Ruehle hopes to strike up partnerships this week to speed that process along.

The most immediate challenge for Internet security and cryptography is online fraud, which by some estimates takes place eight to 12 times as much as it does in the real world.

"The anonymity and ubiquity of the Internet that make it so attractive to users and the market place are the same qualities that make it difficult to secure," said Mike Houlahan, a vice president of Arcot Systems Inc., a Silicon Valley company that makes software designed to limit access to computer files and networks.

Marina Donovan, an RSA Security Inc. vice president who is managing the conference, expects a lot of discussion on developing an industry standard for securing transactions over wireless devices.

"That impacts everybody, even my mother," she said. "Security is a mainstream issue. People need to know how to do business online with confidence." *AP*

Japan party ready to pick Mori successor

TOKYO—Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party on Monday worked out details of a party election later this month to choose a successor to unpopular Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori.

The LDP's election management committee decided on dates for the official announcement of the vote Wednesday and for candidates to submit their bids on Thursday, committee member Hisano Shima said.

If several candidates express interest, they will hold a press conference to state their policy platforms on Thursday, said Kazuhisa Ito, another committee member. The candidates will then make election speeches on Friday before LDP lawmakers.

The party had already set April 24 as the date of the election.

Given the party's dominance in Parliament, the LDP president is a virtual shoo-in to become prime minister.

The committee relaxed some procedural requirements to encourage more people to enter the race and to better reflect the will of regional lawmakers, Ito said.

Party members might discuss an idea suggested by party secretary General Makoto Koga on Sunday that a mandated LDP presidential election scheduled for September be canceled at a separate meeting on party election reform, Ito said.

Since Mori officially announced his long-awaited intention to resign Friday, influential LDP members have intensified behind-the-scenes dealings to agree on a consensus candidate to fill the post.

Party elders Monday continued discussions calling for faction-oriented meetings to find individuals to represent each party group in the vote. *AP*

Entrapment spurs countess to quit post in PR firm

LONDON—The Countess of Wessex, the daughter-in-law of Britain's Queen Elizabeth who made remarks which embarrassed the monarchy, is stepping aside as chairwoman of her public relations firm pending a review of her position, she said Sunday.

Buckingham Palace indicated it would carry out an inquiry to draw up guidelines regulating how members of the royal family conduct their business lives.

The moves follow compromising remarks made by the Countess, the wife of Prince Edward, and splashed across newspapers.

In a personal statement, Sophie spoke of her distress, regret and misjudgement.

She added: "I have discussed the situation with the Queen and I have decided to step aside as chairwoman ... while the issues raised by recent events are carefully considered."

She was tricked into making the comments by an undercover newspaper reporter posing as a wealthy Arab sheikh who was offering her firm a lucrative contract.

Sophie's partner in her PR firm, Murray Harkin, who according to newspaper reports had taken cocaine and was prepared to fix up meetings with gay men for clients, has resigned, a spokeswoman for the firm said on Sunday.

The Countess said: "I am deeply distressed by the carrying out of an entrapment operation on me and my business but I also much regret my own misjudgement in succumbing to that subterfuge."

The "Sophiegate" affair prompted accusations that Sophie had traded on her royal connections for professional advantage. *AFP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, April 10, 2001
Tuesday of Holy Week

1st Reading: Is 49:1-6
Gospel: Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Jesus was distressed in spirit and said plainly, "Truly, one of you will betray me." The disciples then looked at one another, wondering who he meant. One of the disciples, the one Jesus loved, was reclining near Jesus; so Simon Peter signaled him to ask Jesus whom he meant.

And the disciple who was reclining near Jesus asked him, "*Lord,* who is it?" Jesus answered, "I shall dip a piece of bread in the dish, and he to whom I give it, is the one."

So Jesus dipped the bread and gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. And as Judas took the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus then said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly."

None of the others reclining at table understood why Jesus said this to Judas. As he had the common purse, they may have thought that Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the feast," or, "Give something to the poor." Judas left as soon as he had eaten the bread. It was night.

When Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. God will glorify him, and he will glorify him very soon.

My children, I am with you for only a little while; you will look for me, but, as I already told the Jews, so now I tell you: where I am going you cannot come.

Simon Peter said to him, "*Lord,* where are you going?" Jesus answered, "Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but afterwards you will." Peter said, "*Lord,* why can't I follow you now? I am ready to give my life for you." Jesus answered, "To give your life for me! Truly, I tell you, the cock will not crow before you have denied me three times."

Commentary

Betrayal by a confidant is most hurting. Jesus has not been spared of such acts. The reading today begins and concludes with predictions of the betrayal by Judas and the denials of Peter, signs of the fickleness of human relationships and commitment. This, however, would not prevent Jesus from loving his own unto the end. The one he addressed "Friend" at the very act of betrayal and the other he would again call to such friendship. Is your friendship one of convenience or patterned after that of Jesus?

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

ROUNDUP

Co-op official wins labor case

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Supreme Court Second Division upheld a labor arbiter's decision ordering the reinstatement of lawyer Arturo Umbac as Negros Oriental 2 Electric Cooperative general manager and the payment of his wages and damages amounting to P4 million. The decision ended a six-year legal battle waged by Umbac against the Noreco 2 after he was retired by the cooperative's board of directors when he turned 60. Umbac argued that the retirement age for general managers, as mandated by the National Electrification Administration, was 65.
Alex V. Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau

Cop chief replaced

CAMP ADDURU, Tuguegarao City—Cagayan Valley police director Chief Supt. Rowland Albano was replaced as regional police chief last Tuesday. He relinquished his post to Chief Supt. Dominador Resos, previously assigned to the directorate for intelligence and detection management in Camp Crame. During the transfer of command on Tuesday, Albano said he was able to stop *jueteng* and remove inefficient, corrupt and unfit police officials in the region. *Estanislao Caldez and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

4 pinned to death

COTABATO CITY—Four persons were pinned to death, including a soon-to-be married couple, while nine others were hurt when a passenger jeep and a truck collided in Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, last Sunday. Killed were jeep driver Nonoy Tabefranca, 20, his fiancee Beth Boludan, 28, the driver's father Binok and Evelyn Olivo, all residents of Bagua this city. The survivors said the victims were heading home from an engagement ritual in Aleosan, North Cotabato, when the accident occurred at 3 p.m. in Barangay Alamada in Sultan Kudarat. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

6 die in sea mishap

INFANTA, Quezon—Six persons died last week after the boat they were riding in overturned near the mouth of the Agos River in Barangay Pinaglapatan here, according to a police official. Police identified five of the victims as Francisco Monteclaro, 32; Melanio Bruan, 58; and Arlene Bruan, 11, all of Infanta, Quezon and Noel Tabangan and Cerilo Belda, of General Nakar. A person was still missing. The boat was entering the Pinaglapatan Port when it was hit by a big wave causing it to overturn. A search was launched for the missing victim. *Arnel Avila, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila HI 34° Lo 26°	Baguio HI 28° Lo 10°	Tuguegarao HI 34° Lo 24°
Laoag HI 34° Lo 24°	Clark Zone HI 34° Lo 24°	Tagaytay HI 33° Lo 22°
Legazpi HI 33° Lo 24°	Bacolod HI 34° Lo 24°	Roxas HI 33° Lo 24°
Cebu HI 33° Lo 25°	Tacloban HI 33° Lo 24°	Gen. Santos HI 34° Lo 24°
Zamboanga HI 34° Lo 25°	Cagayan de Oro HI 34° Lo 24°	Davao HI 31° Lo 25°

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Plane crash probe not yet over

Palace vows to 'bare all' in Air Philippines tragedy

DAVAO CITY—Malacañang has agreed to open for public scrutiny a report of an independent team created by then President Joseph Estrada to investigate the Air Philippines plane crash last year.

Executive Secretary Renato de Villa, in a press conference here on Sunday, said if necessary, they will also call all the members of the Estrada-created Independent Investigation Committee (IIC) headed by retired Air Force Gen. William Hotchkiss, to explain publicly their findings.

All 131 passengers and crew on board Air Philippines Flight 541 were killed when it slammed into a coconut grove in the Island Garden City of Samal on April 19 last year.

The Hotchkiss committee, which was created by Estrada after relatives raised questions over the credibility of officials of the Air Transportation Office (ATO), submitted its findings to Malacañang as early as Dec. 28 last year but these were kept secret.

But the victims' relatives, who formed the Flight 541 Group Association, said that through contacts in Malacañang they obtained a copy of the Hotchkiss committee report that declared "pilot error" as the cause of the crash.

Dr. Carlos Tolosa Capitan, president of the Flight 541 Group, said they rejected the Hotchkiss committee findings but they needed the government to release the report officially so they could use the document in a criminal case they plan to file against the ATO and Air Philippines.

Members of the Flight 541 Group on Saturday urged President Macapagal to officially release the Hotchkiss committee report so they could now file charges against the ATO and Air Philippines officials.

The group also called on the President to create a new independent team that will conduct another inquiry into the tragedy.

De Villa said they would present soon the findings of the Hotchkiss committee. He, however, would not say if there would be a re-investigation.

"Until we can do that (publicly announce the findings), I (could) only assure the petitioners that we will not hide anything, we will bare all...," De Villa said.

Capitan said they find the Hotchkiss committee report unacceptable as it relied heavily on the testimony of the crew and engineers of Air Philippines and Philippine Airlines.

Air Philippines and PAL are owned by Filipino Chinese tycoon Lucio Tan, the biggest contributor in the 1998 presidential campaign of Estrada.

Capitan said the Hotchkiss committee also failed to seek the opinion of more credible investigators like the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) of the United States.

The committee based its conclusion mainly on an Aircraft Accident Investigation Report drafted by its Technical Working Group (TWG) which sought out the crew of Air Philippines, PAL and staff from the ATO to explain why the plane crashed.

Capitan also noted that the Hotchkiss committee made its conclusion on the investigation despite a dissenting opinion by Retired Air Force General and ICC member Rodolfo Ecarma casting doubts on the "very basis" of the ICC's conclusion.

Ecarma, in a four-page dissenting opinion, said the IIC could not arrive at any conclusion on the probable causes of the accident because the technical working group failed to unearth evidence that could support its conclusion.

Ecarma also quoted the ICC as saying there were lingering doubts on the findings of the technical working group prompting it to declare that its conclusion is still "subject to change" depending on the data that would be retrieved from the plane's flight data recorder (FDR) and other tests.
Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau

NPA owns killing of friend of Imee

BY JANI ARNAIZ
AND FELIX N. CODILLA
PDI Visayas Bureau

ORMOC CITY—The New People's Army has owned up last year's ambush-slaying of a young businessman who was a close friend of Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos.

In a statement, Dadong Malaaya, spokesperson of the Mt. Andewin Command of the NPA's Northern Leyte Front, said Celsar Bendigo was killed because of the "offenses" he committed against the province's farmers.

He said these offenses included the eviction of 40 families from their homes on a 90-hectare land that was foreclosed by a bank, the killing of farmers and the shooting of farmers' houses.

Malaaya also claimed that they recovered 1,000 bullets for Armalite rifles, a .45 cal. pistol, a shotgun and military paraphernalia from the victim's vehicle after the ambush on Oct. 19, 2000 in Barangay Wagie, Leyte town, 90 kilometers from this city.

He said the group regretted that they were not able to claim responsibility for the killing immediately and some "innocent civilians" had been blamed for the murder.

The rebel spokesman also expressed regrets that the people were not immediately informed of the reasons behind the killing.

Malaaya urged authorities to stop going after innocent people who had nothing to do with the killing. He also called on those who were victims of the alleged abuses of the Bendigo family to file cases against them.

Bendigo, 27, and his two bodyguards were killed when about 15 heavily armed men fired at their Toyota pick-up on Oct. 19, 2000 in Barangay Wagie, a kilometer away from Bendigo's farm.

His two bodyguards were identified Leoncio Rededa and Benjie Go whom Malaaya described as "goons."

Bendigo's companion, identified as Robert Matonog, survived the ambush and was placed in police custody.

Matonog suffered two gunshot wounds in his left leg, two wounds in his back and a cut in the head. He had told police that after the ambush, the suspects shouted "*Mabuhay ang hukbong bayan* (Long live the people's army.)"

Bendigo belonged to a landed family in Kananga and Leyte towns, both in Leyte province. He was said to be close to Representative Marcos, the eldest daughter of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

Representative Marcos had been visiting Bendigo's residence in Leyte. The last time Representative Marcos visited Bendigo was on Aug. 24, 2000.

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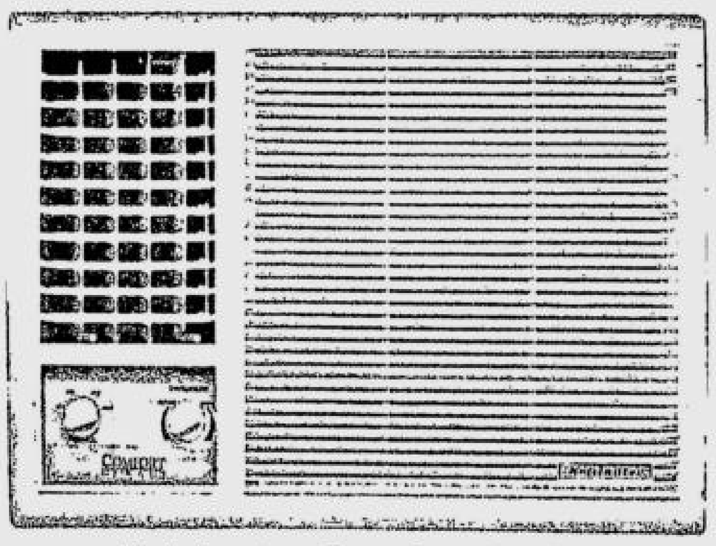

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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO.0940, SERIES OF 2001.

Gloria turns down Manero meeting

(From page A1)

"What is (unusual about) Manero apart from eating brains and bringing his horse to jail?" Corona said, referring to unconfirmed reports that Manero had eaten bits of Favali's brain after killing him.

In a brief radio interview minutes after he arrived in Zamboanga, where he is being held in the custody of the Southern Command, Manero said in Filipino: "All I am asking for is justice."

In a press briefing, Dureza repeated that the convict had made no demands in exchange for his surrender.

"We did not discuss any preconditions," Dureza said, adding that Manero "is not asking for special treatment at all."

"He knows the consequences of having escaped," he said.

Dureza said Manero would be presented to the President "if she agrees."

But Corona said the President's one-day trip to Zamboanga City had nothing to do with Manero's surrender.

Ms Macapagal is scheduled to fly to Zamboanga and Sulu to attend a series of meetings with military commanders engaged in an assault on Abu Sayyaf kidnappers.

'Last recourse'

Manero, who is facing trial on charges that he kidnapped and murdered two brothers in 1977, said he escaped to bring attention to the slow trial of the case, after the court postponed hearings 15 times.

"This is one of the main reasons I decided to escape. I could not think of any other 'last recourse' to make the government hear my pleas," Manero said in another radio interview before he surrendered.

Manero's wife, Julie Yee, told the radio station that "we believe in President Arroyo's sincerity. Her administration is fair."

But Corona said that if Manero had been dissatisfied with the slow resolution of his case, he should have filed a "motion for speedy trial."

By escaping, Manero instead "committed an entirely new crime" under the Revised Penal Code, the Palace aide said.

Corona, a lawyer, said there was nothing the President could do for Manero because his cases are in the courts. Ironically, in 1998, Corona, then President Fidel Ramos' deputy executive secretary, processed the papers for Manero's commutation of sentence from life imprisonment to 24 years.

Hill 901

"*To, salamat naabot ka* (thank you for coming)," Manero told Dureza, who fetched him from his hideout on Hill 901 in Barangay Kinilis, Polomolok town, South Cotabato.

Polomolok Mayor Carmelito Tubo was one of those who saw the convict off. Dureza told the INQUIRER that he and Manero agreed upon the logistics of the surrender plan during a three-hour meeting Saturday.

Manero, who bolted the Sarangani Provincial Jail on March 22, was not handcuffed when he turned himself in after 18 days in hiding.

"He surrendered peacefully. The way he came in, there was no need for handcuffs," Dureza said.

Different places

Manero told GMA Super Radyo that after his escape, he went to different parts of the country before returning to Kinilis, where he owns a sizeable tract of land.

After his escape, several armed groups invited Manero to join them, "but he decided to go to a place that is neutral because his intention is not to join any armed group or create problems," the presidential assistant said.

In the other radio interview, Manero denied that his escape was election-related, saying that candidates gearing up for the May 14 election merely fabricated the claim to gain campaign mileage.

Minimum security?

Manero's return to jail—not to Sarangani but to the Davao Prison and Penal Farm from where he escaped in 1992, will not take place until this afternoon, Dureza said.

The penal farm is a minimum-to-medium-security prison, while Manero is supposed to be a maximum-security prisoner.

Dureza said arrangements had yet to be made for Manero's recommitment to the penal colony in Davao del Norte.

He said he felt the penitentiary was "the most appropriate place . . . because it's not too far away from Sarangani where Manero will have to be brought on May 7, during the Mamalumpong case hearing."

Sarangani is about four hours away by car from the penal farm.

If charged with evasion of service of sentence, Manero will be facing the charge for the second time.

Sentenced in 1987 for Favali's murder, he escaped from the Davao penal farm in May 1992. He was recommitted to the Muntinlupa state penitentiary the following November and was convicted for evasion of service of sentence.

No photos

Accompanied by his wife, Manero was brought to the Rajah Buayan airfield in General Santos City, where the party later boarded a Nomad aircraft for the Edwin Andrews Air Base in Zamboanga.

Upon arrival, Manero was whisked off to a tightly guarded area in the Southern Command compound.

Air Force personnel barred journalists covering the event from photographing and filming the arrival.

Dureza said he brought Manero to the Southcom instead of bringing him directly to Davao because "I'm just putting him here for safekeeping in the meantime, because I'm going to Jolo."

He thanked Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling and Brig. Gen. Roy Kyamko, 6th Infantry Division, commander for the assistance provided by the military in getting Manero back.

'Safer in jail'

In Davao City, the church group Promotion of Church People's Response (PCPR) called on the Macapagal administration to deny Manero any form of reprieve.

Robinson Montalba, chair of the group, said Manero's surrender did not lessen his culpability for his crimes. He said Manero's surrender should instead prompt the government to make sure he does not escape again.

"For all we know, Manero gave himself up not because he is a changed man. He probably realized that it is safer for him to stay in jail since many groups like the Moro rebels and the New People's Army have declared their intention to get him," Montalba said.

Joel Virador, secretary general of Karapatan-Southern Mindanao, said Manero should be returned to the maximum-security prison of Muntinlupa.

He urged the government to give full protection, logistics and financial support to people prepared to testify against Manero in relation to the murders of two brothers in 1977.

Lawyer Carlos Isagani Zarate, spokesperson of the Free Legal Assistance Group, noted reports that security was lax under the Ramos administration, giving Manero the opportunity to escape from the Davao Penal Colony.

Zarate said Manero was apparently also given preferential treatment under the Estrada administration since he was conditionally pardoned. The pardon, however, was one of hundreds granted by Joseph Estrada at the end of 1999, and was recalled following a public outcry.

"President Macagapal must realize that this is a man who had been used by interest groups to (destroy peace) in Mindanao," Zarate said. ***Aquiles Z. Zonio and Jonathan F. Ma with reports from Julie Alipala-Inot, Jowel F. Canuday and Carolyn O. Arguillas, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

'Lawyers buying time for Erap'

(From page A1)

to the Office of the Ombudsman. But it was decided not to pursue this tack in the meantime, he said.

Desierto said the decision of Estrada's lawyers to question the filing of plunder and other criminal charges against their client was part of their legal strategy to delay the proceedings.

He said in a phone interview that the anti-graft court should not entertain "dilatory tactics" by Estrada, which, he said, were aimed at keeping the disgraced leader out of jail.

But he said his office had long expected these moves from Estrada's camp.

"That's why I immediately filed the cases in court—so as not to delay his trial. With the Sandiganbayan taking cognizance of the cases, I don't think he can further delay the proceedings," Desierto said.

But Fortun, who was also part of Estrada's defense team at his aborted impeachment trial, maintained that these moves were "not dilatory tactics but pretty standard, basic motions."

"Any litigation lawyer will tell you that," Fortun said at a press conference he called in San Juan. "We merely want to exhaust all legal remedies to ensure that Mr. Estrada will be given a chance to present his defense."

The Supreme Court will hold an en banc session today to discuss the second motion for reconsideration filed by Estrada lawyer Rene Saguisag questioning the tribunal's second 13-0 ruling upholding Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's presidency.

It will also take up Estrada's petition for a temporary restraining order to prevent the Office of the Ombudsman from proceeding with its investigation on his criminal cases.

This will be the tribunal's first en banc meeting following its annual session in Baguio City.

5-day period

The defense is mainly questioning the alleged failure of the Ombudsman to grant the mandatory five-day period for Estrada to answer the charges before these were elevated to the Sandigan.

Fortun said Estrada was able to receive at his San Juan residence "a copy of one of the informations filed against him" in relation to the "Jose Velarde" bank account "only last Friday, two days after the filing."

The lawyer said a scenario like this—"wherein a person is already charged without having a complaint served upon him"—happened "29 years ago"—a reference to Ferdinand Marcos' declaration of martial law in 1972.

Estrada's lawyers are apparently giving special attention to the plunder charge because it is the only non-bailable charge leveled at him.

On the plan to question the law on plunder, Fortun said: "What is plunder, really? If you take a look at the law itself, (you will see that plunder) refers to the commission of a combination of a series of acts or schemes. My understanding also of the Senate and (House) deliberations prior to the passage of this law is that it should involve public funds, not private funds."

Fortun noted that the plunder case against Estrada involved the following allegations: the P545-million "jueteng" bribe money from gambling lords; the P130 million from tobacco excise taxes; the P189-million commission from the purchase of Belle Corp. stocks using government pension funds; and the P3.2 billion Jose Velarde account at Equitable PCI Bank.

"As you can see, the only moneys which we can rightfully (classify) as public funds are the excise tax. And I think that would become very material because plunder pertains to a combination or a series of acts," Fortun said, adding:

"(But) according to (whistle-blower Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis) Chavit Singson, there was only one transaction (the handing of the money to Estrada). So if there's only one transaction, it could it be a matter of a violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, and not a case of plunder."

Plunder, which Philippine law defines as the purposeful malversation of government funds amounting to P50 million and above, is considered a heinous crime and is punishable by death.

'Face the music'

Desierto reiterated his call for Estrada to "face the music" and formally answer the charges in court.

"If Estrada is really innocent, as he claims to be, then by all means, he should clear his name by immediately submitting to the jurisdiction of the Sandiganbayan," Desierto said.

The Ombudsman said that Estrada's move to question the law on plunder was part of his last-ditch efforts to be allowed to post bail, and that the high court would not entertain such a petition.

"The law is presumed to be constitutional until declared otherwise by the Supreme Court with finality," he said. "(Enacting laws) is the prerogative of the legislature. The high court will first defer to that authority under the principle of separation of powers."

He said the high court would immediately dismiss the petition "unless it is very obvious and well-supported by facts that the law is inconsistent with or contradictory to the provisions of the Constitution."

He also expressed doubt that Estrada's lawyers could "come up with any legal argument to support any petition to question the plunder law."

Contrary to Estrada's claims, Desierto said, the ex-president was given ample time to rebut the charges filed against him before the Office of the Ombudsman by cause-oriented groups and the Department of Justice.

"In the first place, he was formally informed of the charges as early as Jan. 23, when he was subpoenaed to answer the accusations. So the claim that he was ignorant of the charges is baseless," Desierto said.

According to Desierto, the Office of the Ombudsman twice gave extensions to Estrada to answer the charges, "but he did not."

'Crucifixion'

On top of the legal discourse, Fortun turned spiritual and attempted to compare Estrada's plight to a "crucifixion."

Reading from a prepared statement, Fortun said: "Two thousand years ago, (Jesus Christ) was falsely accused, deprived of his right to defend himself, thrown to the mob and put to death. Since then, civil society has set rules to ensure that no person will again suffer for a crime he did not commit and for which he has been falsely charged.

"I cannot claim any similarity between Our Lord and my client. What I decry is the recurring thirst for blood in this new kind of crucifixion."

The response from the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan was angry and immediate.

"How much lower and blasphemous can Estrada and his cabal go just to escape arrest and whitewash their terrible crimes?" said Bayan chair Rafael Mariano in a statement.

"An unapologetic adulterer and an ousted president who was deposed because of corruption is like Christ? Definitely not. Christ did not sleep with several women, did not steal from public coffers, did not hide any loot under (aliases), and did not build lavish mansions using plundered funds," Mariano said. ***With a report from Cathy C. Yamsuan***

Reds open to proposal of a national ceasefire

(From page A1)

Jalandoni arrived the other day together with wife Coni Ledesma and NDF peace panel adviser Antonio Zumel and wife Ruth de Leon.

The government and NDF had earlier announced a ceasefire in Southern Tagalog to facilitate the release of Army Maj. Noel Buan who was freed by the Melito Glor Command of the New People's Army in Oriental Mindoro on April 6 after 21 months in captivity. The ceasefire will expire tomorrow, April 11.

Suspend military operations

Presidential peace adviser Eduardo Ermita had earlier said that Cabinet Cluster E, which is in charge of national security, would discuss tomorrow the possible extension and expansion of the suspension of military offensive against communist guerrillas.

Cluster E is chaired by Vice President Teofisto Guingona, also the foreign affairs secretary.

Jalandoni said ceasefire agreements for specific areas "are easier to implement."

He recalled the 60-day ceasefire between the Aquino administration and the NDF between 1986 and 1987, which resulted in both sides making charges and counter-charges of violations.

"Instead of contributing to the atmosphere of the talks then, we were making accusations against each other especially in the media," Jalandoni said.

At that time, there were no effective monitoring mechanisms to check compliance by the two parties, according to the NDF negotiator.

The NDF pulled out of the talks in January 1987 after police fired on demonstrators demanding genuine land reform, killing scores of farmers at the Mendiola Bridge near Malacañang.

Socio-economic reforms

"Without any agreements on substantive issues like socio-economic reforms, and political and constitutional reforms, it is hard to come up with a national ceasefire," Jalandoni said.

The upcoming talks will be taking off on socio-economic reforms.

Oslo, Norway

The NDF panel is scheduled today to meet with Silvestre Bello III, chair of the government negotiating panel, to decide on whether Oslo, Norway, would be the venue of the formal talks.

"Right now, we are left with three options and this is to hold the talks in three northern countries, such as Sweden, Finland and Norway," Bello said in a radio interview.

"I understand from (Jalandoni) that they have already formally communicated with the Norwegian government," Bello said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had earlier approved a recommendation by the government panel to hold the talks in a neutral venue abroad.

The two sides are also set to discuss the arrangements for the April 18 solidarity conference, which will be attended by the two parties as part of confidence building measures.

They will also take up the reinstatement of the Joint Agreement on Security and Immunity Guarantees, particularly the issuance of safe conduct passes for 87 NDF negotiators, staff and security personnel.

"We will be discussing who will be given safe conduct passes," Bello said, adding that they will ask the NDF to give them the names and pictures of those to be granted immunity guarantees.

Security for NDF negotiators

At present, the military is providing the NDF negotiators back-up security.

Certain military men have been assigned to ensure that places where the panel will be going are safe, according to AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan.

"It's not close-in security," Adan said. "We would like them (NDF panel) safe while in the country."

Jalandoni said he and the other NDF panel members would be going around with unarmed security personnel from the NDF.

"Our security won't be carrying firearms to avoid possible complications," he said.

A gun ban is currently in place in line with the May 14 elections.

Human rights violations

In Davao City, a fact-finding mission led by the human rights group Karapatan yesterday urged both the peace emissaries of the government and the NDF to discuss alleged rights violations committed by soldiers in Davao Oriental.

A fact-finding report prepared by Karapatan documented cases of strafing, physical assault, hamleting, food blockade, destruction of property and looting allegedly committed by the Army's 30th Infantry Battalion over the past two months in Cateel town, Davao Oriental.

Karapatan said Roy Latiban and 5-year-old Mary Joy Carsona were killed when members of the battalion allegedly shot at a hut at Sitio Lucasan in Barangay Malibago in Cateel on Feb. 27.

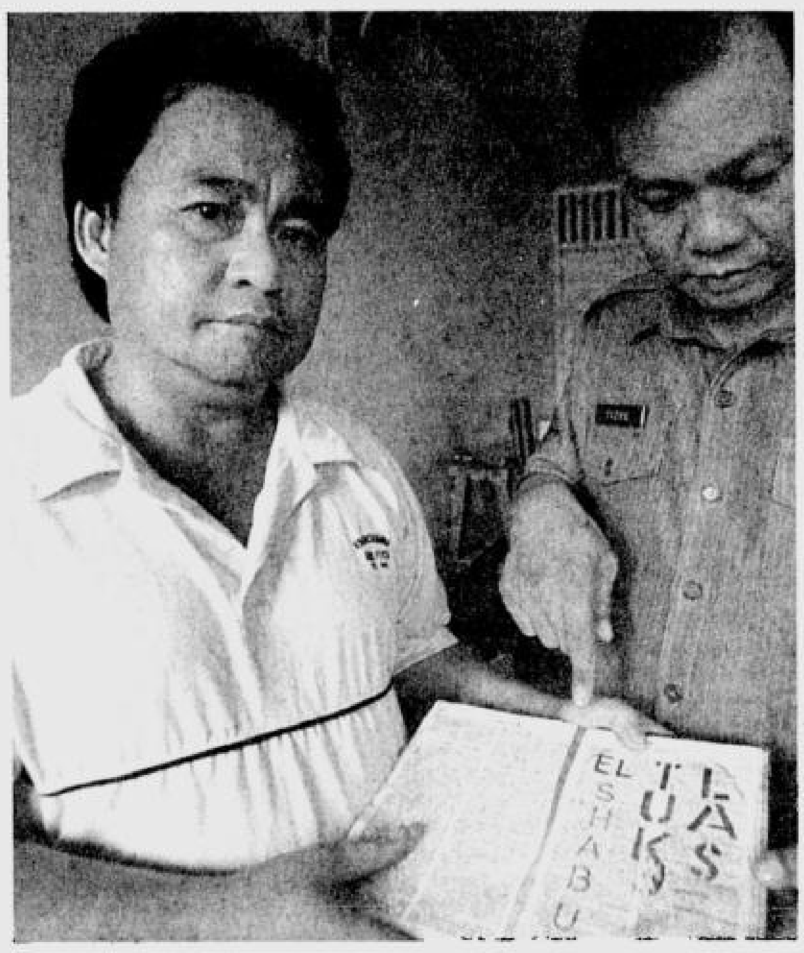
Karapatan also reported that Carsona's brother Dodong, 3, was injured in the attack.

On March 31 to April 2, some 40 members of the 30th IB allegedly herded some 30 residents in Sitio Spur 2 in Barangay Aliwagwag, also in Cateel town, into a hamlet.

Karapatan also reported that 19, including two women, were mauled when they failed to reveal the place where NPA rebels were hiding.

Col. Felipe Beroya, 701st brigade chief, denied the allegations, saying the soldiers were under strict orders to extend courtesy to civilians even if they were suspected as NPA supporters.

Still, Beroya has ordered a probe of the allegations. ***With reports from Armand N. Nocum and Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau***



WRIT large on the Holy Book carried by drug pusher, Bernardo de Vera, are the words, "El Shabu."

EDWIN BACASMAS

Cops bust . . .

(From page A1)

his Bible where he hid sachets of shabu between its pages.

De Vera, 38, of 75 Palanan St. in Bago Bantay, Quezon City, was arrested during a buy-bust operation near his home on Saturday night, said Supt. Pepito Domantay, chief of the Metro Manila Narcotics Office (MMNO) at the Kamuning police station.

On Saturday afternoon, a group of MMNO agents went to Bago Bantay to conduct the operation. A police informer had told them that De Vera was about to go on one of his "Bible studies." Undercover agent PO2 Elleonto Apoluhan approached the suspect and asked if he could buy shabu.

De Vera said yes, and the agent gave him a marked P500 bill. To Apoluhan's surprise, De Vera opened his Bible and leafed through its pages for the shabu.

When De Vera handed Apoluhan the illegal substance, the other MMNO agents pounced on the suspect. Police found on De Vera .39 grams of the illegal substance contained in a sachet, P500 in marked money, and the Bible he had desecrated, Domantay said.

The suspect allegedly went around his neighborhood with the Bible tucked under his arm before the police arrested him. De Vera's visits to his neighbors were disguised as "Bible studies," but it turned out that he was selling drugs, Domantay added.

Other blasphemies

Besides the blasphemous words written on the first page of the copy of De Vera's *Mabuting Balita Biblia*, which has the imprimatur of Jaime Cardinal Sin, the suspect also wrote "Jesus-Tulak S" on the section containing St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews. Beneath this line he wrote "shabu," also in big block letters.

De Vera told the INQUIRER that he plied his illegal trade using the Holy Scripture after he "personally studied the Bible."

He did not deny that he used the Holy Book for the illegal drug trade but insisted that the sacrilegious words he had written on it were done three years ago.

Domantay said one of his informers in Bago Bantay tipped off his office last week about De Vera's activities.

De Vera is now detained at the MMNO detention cell in Kamuning police station.

Police filed drug charges against De Vera before the Quezon City prosecutor's office yesterday afternoon.

"I don't know what the fiscal will do to you if he sees this," Domantay said, holding De Vera's Bible.

"We'll keep this. You can be sure he won't be made to swear in court using this Bible," Domantay told the INQUIRER.

Palace says . . .

(From page A1)

and several others killed Italian missionary Tullio Favali in 1985. Although the claims were never proven, the reports earned Manero the moniker "cannibal killer."

Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza said Manero fed the foal named "PA Toto Jess" during the brief flight yesterday from the escaped convict's hideout in Polomolok, South Cotabato, to an airfield in General Santos City.

"He had two feeding bottles with him and he was feeding the foal throughout the flight," Dureza said.

Manero had asked for government permission to bring along his new pet from his hideout to General Santos, where he has relatives. Upon landing at the airfield, Manero left the young colt in their care.

The newly born foal, which Manero considers his "lucky charm," fell into a ravine Saturday. Its mother died after jumping off the cliff after the young horse.

After he rescued the foal, Manero named it "PA Jess" after the initials of Dureza's title and his nickname.

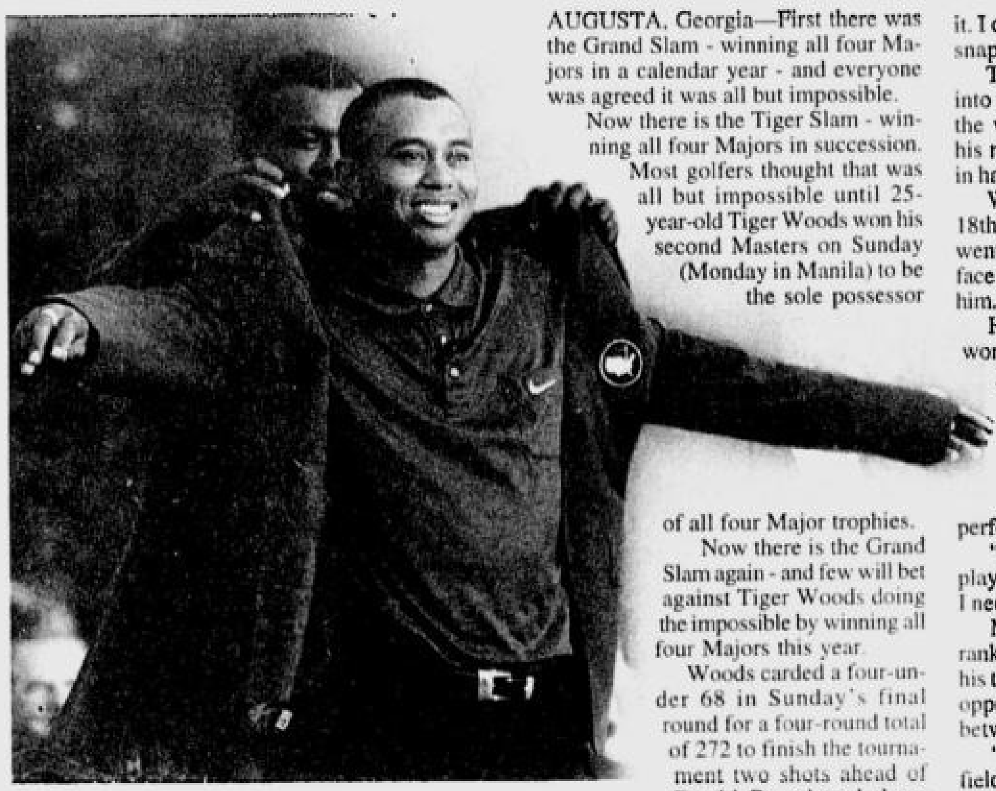
But former Datu Paglas Mayor Toto Paglas, upon hearing Manero call his new pet by name, cajoled him into renaming his lucky charm—which is why the foal is now called "PA Toto Jess."

Dureza said Manero told him that he would like to see the horse again, but the Macapagal aide added that he would have to wait until he got out of prison.

Corona, who was under the impression that Manero wanted to bring the animal with him to jail, said the convict might find it hard to get the nod of the courts.

He said that if Manero were serious about his request, he would

Tiger Slam completed



WOODS gets a hand from 2000 champion Vijay Singh for his second green jacket symbolic of Woods' Masters victory at Augusta National. AP

AUGUSTA, Georgia—First there was the Grand Slam - winning all four Majors in a calendar year - and everyone was agreed it was all but impossible.

Now there is the Tiger Slam - winning all four Majors in succession.

Most golfers thought that was all but impossible until 25-year-old Tiger Woods won his second Masters on Sunday (Monday in Manila) to be the sole possessor of all four Major trophies.

Now there is the Grand Slam again - and few will bet against Tiger Woods doing the impossible by winning all four Majors this year.

Woods carded a four-under 68 in Sunday's final round for a four-round total of 272 to finish the tournament two shots ahead of David Duval and three ahead of Phil Mickelson.

"He is an amazing player. Awesome," said former Masters champion Fred Couples. "He's one of a kind. He's so good you don't understand him because he is so good."

Bernard Langer is equally impressed.

"Ten years ago I would have said Tiger's win would have been impossible, but now I know everything is possible for Tiger," said the German.

And world number two Mickelson was so stunned at having failed again to win even a single Major that he was unable to talk about Tiger's performance after going head-to-head with him in Sunday's final round.

"I really haven't been thinking about it. I couldn't answer that right now," he snapped.

This week Woods gave an insight into why he is by far the best player in the world today - able to concentrate his mind with such intensity to the job in hand.

When he sank his birdie putt on the 18th to add the icing to his victory he went to the side of the green and hid his face in his cap as his emotions overcame him.

He explained: "I was in such a zone, working on every shot. I have never had that feeling before. I was so attuned to each and every shot. I finally realized I had no more to play. For some reason my emotions started coming out."

Even Woods was stunned by his performance.

"I'm amazed at the fact I was able to play as well as I was able to play when I needed to," he said.

Mickelson, who has reinforced his ranking as world number two thanks to his third-placed finish, was ruing missed opportunities - underlying the huge gap between Woods and the rest.

"If I'm going to win with Tiger in the field I cannot make the mistakes that I have been making. I've got to eliminate those somehow. I just can't afford to keep throwing shot after shot away. I think that mentally I'm not there for all 72 shots. I feel like I am slacking off one, two or three," admits the 30-year-old.

With four straight Majors, Woods is now setting his sights on making it five.

"Hopefully this is the start," he said.

Pressed as to whether he could continue his Major streak, Woods replied with a smile "We'll find out in June".

But for the time being, Woods plans to put the Masters, US Open, British Open and PGA Championships trophies on his coffee table at his Florida home and look at them sitting there together.

It will be a sight no one has ever seen.

And Woods is a player, the like of which no one has ever seen *AFP*

UP, FEU football winners

UNIVERSITY of the Philippines-Diliman Team A and Far Eastern University Team A went the same route in ruling their respective divisions recently in the University Games, the kickoff leg of the Rexona National Beach Football Series at the Subic Freeport.

In the men's division of the event that attracted 10 collegiate teams and was organized by the Beach Football Association of the Philippines (BFAP), UP-Team A topped the Group A elimination round with a 3-win, 1-draw record to advance to the semifinals against De La Salle Team D.

UP-Team A beat De La Salle Team D, 2-1, and arrange a showdown against FEU Team A which defeated UP Team B, 2-1, to earn a ticket to the championship.

It turned out to be a relatively easy game for the Diliman-based booters as they beat FEU, 3-0, to win the men's division of the event that was supported by Adidas, San Miguel Super Dry, Viva Mineral Water, host venue SBMA, Subic International Hotel, FHM, Digitel, Pearl of the Pacific Resort Hotel, and Hotel La Corona, among others.

Alaska opens camps

ALASKA opened recently its annual summer football camps in two different venues and a goodwill camp for military dependents on April 17.

Project director Tomas Lozano launched the first two football camps at the Ayala Alabang Football School in Ayala-Alabang and at the Makati Football School at the Army-Ascom field in Fort Bonifacio and expects 400 participants in the two camps.

"This is a commitment of Alaska in helping promote sports among the young people and we have always stuck to team events because we want the participants to learn the values of teamwork," said Joaqui Trillo, Alaska's Sports Manager.

Sessions are held in Alabang every Tuesday and Thursday, 4 to 6 p.m. while in Fort Bonifacio sessons are held 8 to 10 a.m. for 10 to 18 year olds, and 4 to 6 p.m. for those 4 to 12 years old.

White Plains paces Intervillage golfest

WHITE Plains drew big games from its starters as it pooled a 290-point aggregate to take the lead in the Alaxan Intervillage golf circuit, which recently kicked off its four-division series with the Intervillage North at Wack Wack's east course.

Four players scored 38 points apiece under the Stableford scoring system over the difficult par-72 layout, with Ronaldo Abilla, Nano Imperial, Neo Asistio and Renato Sawit putting in motion White Plains bid at the start of the three-month qualifiers among exclusive residential villages in Quezon City.

With Efren Panganiban tossing in 37 points, Sonia Ongkiko and Tony Jarina 34 apiece and Philip Del Carmen 33, White Plains took an 11-point lead over Corinthian in the 12-to-play, eight-to-count format sponsored by Alaxan. White Plains skipper Tomas Pedrosa, a 12-handicaper, didn't count with a 27.

Intervillage organizer Vince Villafuerte said the new rules allow them to accept a few more villages to play in the series. Interested villages may call him at 8446515.

Ten teams are vying for the three final berths in the North sector, while nine in Makati, 11 in the East series with the South sector having the most number of squads with 13.

The long-running village series, now on its 10th year, is backed by BJ Marthel International, MasterCard, PinoyAuctions, ICTSI, STI Colleges, Callaway and Odyssey, Pisanti golfwear and Menzi and Co.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA - Phoenix Suns vs Minnesota Timberwolves at 5 p.m. (r) on ESPN
NBA in the 90s - Pure Pistons at 7:30 p.m. on ESPN
GOLF: Augusta Masters 2001, Final Day Highlights at 7:30 a.m. (r), Day One at 12:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
Senior PGA Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf, First Round at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
LPGA Nabisco Championship, Final Round at 10 p.m. on ESPN
WRESTLING: WCW Worldwide at 9:30 p.m. on Star Sports
MOTOR SPORTS: Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach at 10 a.m. and tomorrow at 1 a.m. (r) on ESPN
CART Pole Qualifying at midnight on ESPN
SOCCER: CNFL – Shandong vs Chongqing at 9:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

Fil-Estate tennis clinics set

THE FIL-ESTATE Sports Foundation Inc. and the Manila Southwoods Tennis Academy will hold a summer tennis camp to be conducted by Former World Group Davis Cup captain Manny Tecson at two venues.

The tennis camp at the Bramante courts at the 2nd Floor of Bramante Piazza on Meralco Avenue in Pasig and the Manila Southwoods Sports Club in Carmona, Cavite, is open to players in various levels from beginners to intermediate, advanced and competition.

The schedules are April 2-25 and May 7-30 at Bramante. At Southwoods, the camps are from April 7 to May 6 and from May 12 to June 10.

Enrollment is going on at both venues. Call 9389522 or 9394851 for more details.

Why Tiger's good

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

AFTER landing his wedge shot gently to the 18th green yesterday, Tiger Woods knew he'd win the 65th Masters with two putts. He was up one shot.

He didn't play it safe. Other players would have opted to putt the ball close to the hole. *Dikit sa butas lang, 'pre.* The crown was already there for the taking.

Not Tiger Woods.

Tiger went for the cup, putting boldly as ever, from about 18 feet away. The ball hit the heart of the hole. Dead center. When Tiger made the stroke, he knew he had it nicely done; he confidently walked toward the hole even before the ball could disappear into the cup. When the ball fell, Tiger did his customary punch in the air, clenched right fist and all.

Why the daring even when victory was imminent?

I found some answers to that from Jack Clary's book, "Tiger Woods."

While Tiger's father, Earl, was a tough Green Beret in the Vietnam War with the rank of Lt. Colonel in the US Army, it was Tiger's mother, Kultilda, who taught her son what toughness is all about.

"When you are ahead in a match, son, you should not let up but instead, try as hard as you could to overwhelm your opponent," Kultilda told Tiger when her son was barely seven. "But when the match is finally won, you have to be a sportsman."

At the age of eight, Tiger, born on Dec. 30, 1975 in Long Beach, California, beat his mentor-father, a handicap-1 at one time, for the first time. Said Tiger after the match: "Nice game, Dad. I was just lucky out there, today."

Earl soon found himself telling friends that once his son beat him, he knew that he never again would hold a mastery of the game over him.

Tiger's mental toughness was the result of great parenting as well as Tiger's humility to seek advice from the masters. For Tiger, it was not all golf when he was small, although he could hit a 5-iron equal to the distance an adult made when he was five years old. Earl and Tilda made sure that there would be no golf until all of Tiger's homework was finished. In high school, he maintained a 3.75 grade point average. In his first PGA event—the 1992 Los Angeles Open—he was not permitted to be absent from his classes at Western High School until he obtained a pass from the principal's office. His father insisted that he take his books with him to the tournament. In his senior high, Tiger was in the honors list and maintained a 3.3 grade point average. He soon easily made it to Stanford University.

In 1997, Tiger seemed to have the hunch to win the Masters as, even before play could begin, he consulted golf legend Arnold Palmer and NBA star Michael Jordan about how to handle the overwhelming pressure of being a national celebrity.

"Just be yourself," he was told. "Be humble."

It was during the 1992 Los Angeles Open that Tiger met Mark O'Meara, who is now one of his closest friends and neighbor in his new home in Florida. Mark told Tiger, then only 17: "You have to appreciate what you're accomplishing right now. But you must remember to always have fun playing golf and be as normal at all times."

When Tiger was young, his father used "all the dirty tricks" a Green Beret had learned to distract his son's concentration. Noise. Badgering. Camera clicks.

Yesterday, Tiger stopped his swing on the 17th tee box after a fan distraction from the gallery.

Annoyed?

Not at all.

When he finally hit the aborted tee shot, it was as huge a drive as one could imagine.

Tiger's victory yesterday made him the first to win all four majors in succession. After Vijay Singh's Masters victory last year, Tiger won the next three majors—US Open, British Open and the PGA Championship. And now the Masters. Again.

At the rate he's going—he has won all his last three tournaments—a sweep of the remaining three Majors for the year is not far-fetched. Seemingly, Tiger came to earth not just to win but also to break records. Winning has now become a habit.

The records have become mere icings.

Unbeaten Giv seeks 3rd win vs Ana

GAMES TODAY
(Makati Coliseum)
3:30 p.m.—Welcoat Paints vs PharmaQuick
5:30 p.m.—Ana Freezer vs Giv Beauty Soap

BY DENNIS U. EROA

GIV Beauty Soap eyes its third straight win when it battles dangerous Ana Freezer Specialist today in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

The Soap Masters battle the Freezer Kings at 5:30 p.m. Defending champion Welcoat tackles PharmaQuick in the first game at 3:30 p.m.

The league will resume on April 17.

Shark Energy Drink, which drew a bye, is safely on top with four straight wins. Ana is carrying a 2-1 win-loss card.

Japanese rule Subic race

SUBIC—The Japanese duo of Taichiro Ohnishi and Fujita Takayuki stamped their class in their respective categories, even as the Philippines' George Ramirez and Nilo Pazcoguin made triumphant debuts in the Asian Touring Car Championships—centerpiece event of the "Asian Festival of Speed" at the Subic International Raceway on Palm Sunday.

Looking supremely confident in his French-made yellow Peugeot 306, Ohnishi outclassed Paul Chan of Hong Kong and Ramirez in the decisive second round and shared the limelight with first round winner Lam Wai Hong of Hong Kong in Division I.

Ohnisho clocked 33:01.967 in the 15-lap race at the 2.8 kilometer course built originally as high-speed US fighter aircraft refuelling bay. Chan timed 33:07.398 and Ramirez 33:12.900.

Takayuki completed a sweep of the races in his Honda Civic EK4 over Danny Stacy Chau of Hong Kong and Pazcoguin in the equally exciting Division II.

Takayuki, a mainstay of the famed Ao's Racing Team, submitted time of 32:45.560 against Chau's 32:50.533 and Pazcoguin's 33:34.020.

The twin victories put the two young and brash Japanese drivers in the lead in this 16-part, eight-month long series organized by Motorsports Asia Ltd. (Malaysia) in cooperation with Sports Values Inc. (Phils.).

"I'm satisfied with our showing in this kickoff leg of this prestigious series. Nilo (Pazcoguin) and I could have done much better, but we still finished well enough to make it to the winner's podium," said Ramirez, who also finished second to Hong in his Honda Integra in the first round.

In the Asian Formula 2000 dominated by Karun Chandhok and Azif Nazir of India, lone Filipino entry Mike Potenciano of Team MP Turbo-Gulf Oil finished a strong fifth in the first round.

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SPORTSWATCH

Galido settles for bronze in Cuba

HAVANA—Welterweight Reynaldo Galido settled for the bronze in the Cordova Cardin boxing championships Saturday night, leaving only three members of team Caltex Philippines with a chance of reaching the finals of their respective divisions here. Galido, a Navyman, who turns 30 in three weeks, lost to Cuba's Lorenzo Aragon, 4-11, after taking a bye in the first round. After a quiet opening round, the two fighters traded heavy right straights in the second although Galido was, most of the time, short on his punches against his taller rival.

Divac, Stojakovic star for Kings

SACRAMENTO, California — Vlade Divac scored 8 of his 13 points in the final seven minutes, and Peja Stojakovic hit a big jumper over Scottie Pippen with 27 seconds left as the Sacramento Kings beat the Portland Trail Blazers, 98-89, Sunday. Sacramento, led by Chris Webber and Stojakovic with 20 points apiece, maintained its lead in the Pacific Division by winning its third straight overall and 31st home game, the franchise's most home wins since the Kings moved to Sacramento. **COMPLETE NBA RESULTS:** Miami 81, New York 76; Indiana 108, New Jersey 83; Toronto 100, Chicago 88; Sacramento 98, Portland 89; L.A. Lakers 104, Minnesota 99; Seattle 101, Milwaukee 88; San Antonio 84, Golden State 76. *AP*

Ramirez homers thrice

HOUSTON — Aramis Ramirez homered three times in his first three at-bats, leading the Pittsburgh Pirates over the Houston Astros 9-3 Sunday. Ramirez drove in a career-high six runs. He tied the team record for home runs in a game, becoming the first Pittsburgh player to do it since Darnell Coles against the Chicago Cubs on Sept. 20, 1987. AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston 3, Tampa Bay 0; N.Y. Yankees 16, Toronto 5; Cleveland 4, Baltimore 3; Detroit 5, Chicago White Sox 3; Kansas City 15, Minnesota 4; Texas 5, Seattle 4; Anaheim 6, Oakland 4. NATIONAL LEAGUE: Florida 6, Atlanta 1; Montreal 5, N.Y. Mets 2; Philadelphia 3, Chicago Cubs 1; Milwaukee 8, Cincinnati 4; Pittsburgh 9, Houston 3; San Diego 11, Colorado 3; St. Louis 9, Arizona 4; San Francisco 8, Los Angeles 3. *AP*

Filipino dancers cop 2 golds

VETERAN internationalists did the country proud again by winning two gold medals in the recent International Open Dance Sport Championships held in Singapore. The first-place winners were Edgar Borromeo and Ana Dulce Yango (amateur Standard category, Close Asia) and teenagers John Errolle Melencio and Krystel Dame Tadeo (junior Latin and Class D category, Close Asia). Silver medals were won by Asia-Pacific ranked Bong Marquez and Edna Ledesma (amateur Latin category) and Jerswin and Anne Poloyapoy (amateur Standard) while the youthful pair of Reynier Mercado and Judith Anne Melencio finished fourth in the junior Latin finals.

Cabalinan karting champion

CARMONA, Cavite—Unheralded Jess Cabalinan finally stepped out of the shadows of his more illustrious rivals on Palm Sunday, beating Manuel Mayo and Jess Garcia in the action-packed third leg of the Shell Super Karting Series 2001 at the Carmona Racing Circuit.

Cabalinan, one of the highly talented but lesser-known campaigners in this annual series considered as the national karting championship, threw caution to the wind and came away with the long-overdue victory in the centerpiece Formula Super A category.

Mayo finished a close second, while the Cebu-based Garcia, who ruled the kickoff leg on March 4, wound up third in this annual series organized by Carmona Circuit Phils. and sponsored by Coca-Cola, Bridgestone, Nokia, Hot Wheels/Match Box, Eastway Racing and Demvel's Enterprises.

Rounding out the top five finishers were Mon Tanjuatco, who finished fourth; and Manuel Sy, who came in fifth.

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WOODS

Woods beats Duval by 2 shots to win 65th US Masters A13

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Ruiz-Holyfield in Beijing

BEIJING—Newly crowned World Boxing Association (WBA) heavyweight champion John Ruiz's first title defense against Evander Holyfield will take place in Beijing on Aug. 5, Chinese state press said Sunday. According to an initial contract signed on Feb. 14 between Chinese promoter Niu Lixin, head of the China Great Wall Sports Communication Ltd., and Don King, Holyfield's promoter, both sides had planned to bring a title fight to China on June 30.

Caoili earns IM crown

By Dennis U. Eroa

CHEERS to chess phenomenon Arianne Caoili.

The 14-year-old Filipina put the country to international sporting limelight anew with an impressive show in the super tough 22nd Bled Chess Festival held recently in Slovenia.

Caoili was the best female finisher, placing 35th among 121 entries. She had 5 points after the 9-round tournament won by super GM Evgeny Sveshnikov of Russia, who scored 7.5 points.

Despite the lack of government support and corporate sponsors, Caoili was able to gain the certificate of title for her third International Master norm.

"She is now a full-pledged IM at the age of 14 years and three months," Arnold, Arianne's father, told the Inquirer in an exclusive interview. Arianne's IM title will be confirmed during the FIDE Congress in May.

Upon confirmation, Arianne will become the third Filipina IM after the semi-retired IM Girmie Fontanilla and fellow Olympian Beverly Mendoza.

CAOILI

Caoili, who was accompanied by her mother Annette, copped her first IM norm in the 3rd Bavarian International Open in Germany on Oct. 31, 1999. She gained the second norm by topping the Asian Continental under-16 championships last December in Bagac, Bataan.

Arnold said that his daughter missed a GM norm after losing via time forfeit in the last round against Germany's Dennis Breder (Elo rating is 2383).

She beat Slovenia's Jukan Nesib and Fide Master Jana Krivec , Italy's Daniele Vismara and Germany's Fide Master Volker Mejer. She lost to Breder, Croatia's IM Robert Loncar and English GM Peter Wells. Caoili halved the point against Slovenia's Martin Kodric and Radik Asylguzhin of Russia.

The elder Caoili reiterated his call for financial help from President Macapagal Arroyo through PSC chair Butch Tuason.

"The performance of Arianne added honor to the Philippines," he said. "Her performance was covered enthusiastically by the Slovenian press. From Slovenia, Arianne will pursue her GM title, no matter the costs. Of course, it will help a lot if President Macapagal will help Arianne in her expenses for more campaigns abroad."

Antonio beats Laylo

Standings after Round 9

Men: Torre, Bitoon, Sayson, Antonio 6; Gonzales 5.5; Garma, Villamayor 5; Datu, Senador 4.5; Laylo; Olay, Sales 1.5

Women: Mendoza 7.5; Toledo 7, Joya 6; Lomibao 5.5; Mariano, Torres, Flores 5, Rivera, Caños 3.5; Cruz 3; 2.5; Itaas 1.5.

GRANDMASTER Joey Antonio crushed National Master Darwin Laylo yesterday to create a four-way tie for the lead entering the homestretch of the National Open Chess championship finals at Ramon Magsaysay Hall of the SSS building in Quezon City.

Samaranch arriving tonight

JUAN Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, is scheduled to arrive tonight on board a private jet from Palau island for a one-day official visit to the Philippines.

Samaranch and his party of five are scheduled to have breakfast with Philippine Olympic Committee officials and the media tomorrow.

POC president Celso L. Dayrit and POC Chair Robert N. Aventajado will be joined by IOC representative to thè Philippines Francisco Elizalde and NSA (national sports association) presidents in the breakfast meeting.

Samaranch will next call on President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo at 10 a.m. in Malacañang.

Samaranch's brief visit is considered memorable because it is one of his final official acts as outgoing (IOC) president.

The 81-year-old Samaranch is retiring this year after succeeding Lord Killanin as IOC president immediately prior to the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow.

Among others, Samaranch is credited with having strengthened the IOC Executive Board management through the reorganization of its administrative setup, expanding the Olympic body's income, especially through sponsorships under exclusivity of the Olympic Partners Programme (TOP) and the shift to an "open" eligibility rule in 1987.

In the autumn-winter months of 1995-96, Samaranch was able to oversee the signing of three contracts, two with NBC and another with the European Broadcasting Union, that brought into the coffers of the Olympic Movement an astonishing collective total of more than $5 billion to be paid over a succession of Summer and Winter Games up to the year 2008.

Wazzzzup?

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Cowboy Grill NOVALICHES Q.C.	HOMOSAPIENS HIMIG	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎936.9757
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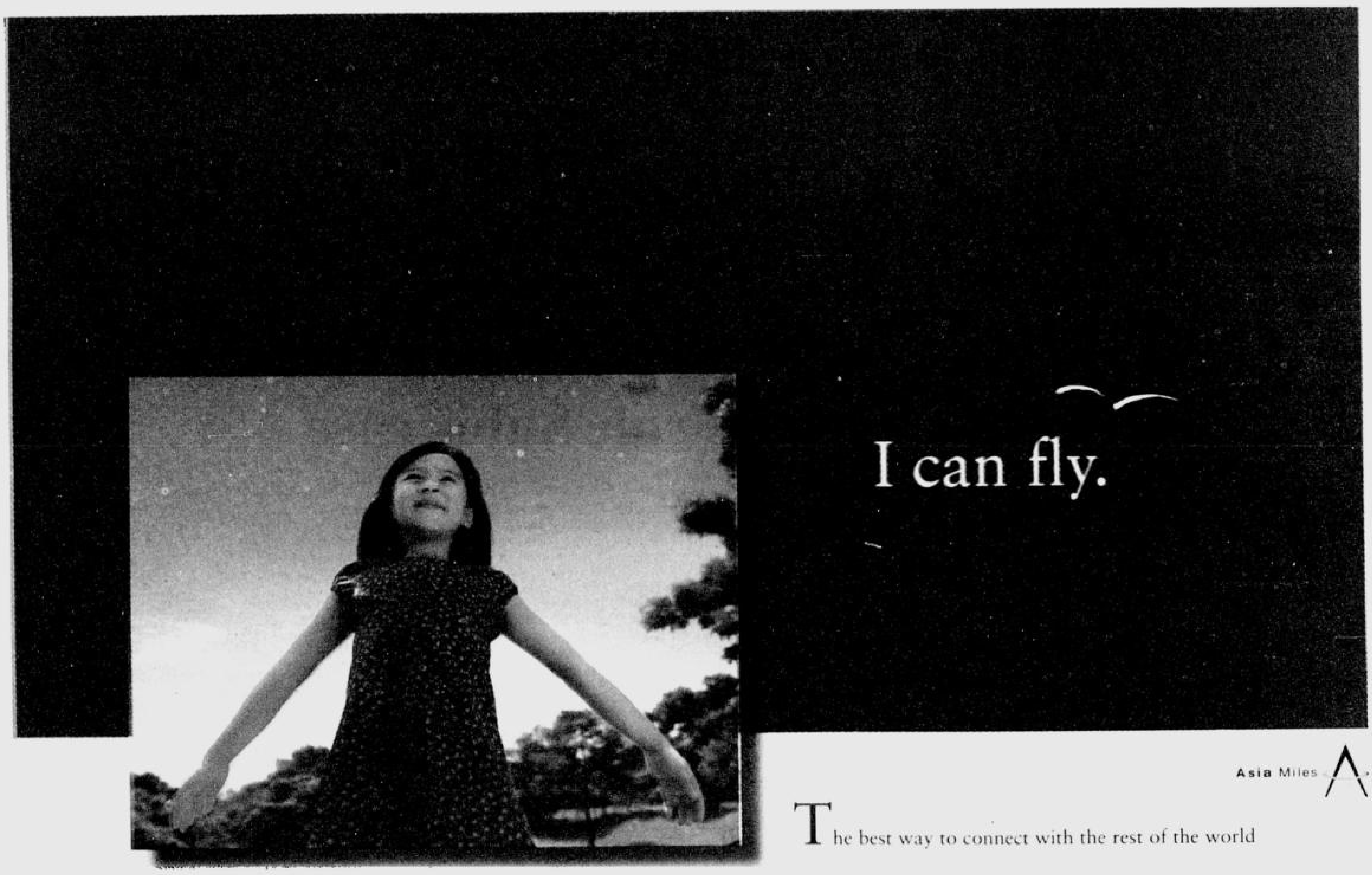
TUESDAY, APRIL 10 912-8983



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On Target: The only way to deal with Moro terrorists A16

Water rates going up; faucets running dry

By Christian V. Esguerra and Christine Gaylican

HALF of Metro Manila will have no water this Holy Week while the other half will endure an increase in water rates this month.

The Maynilad Water Services Inc. made this announcement yesterday as it bared that areas located in the west zone of Metro Manila will have no water supply or experience low-water pressure until Friday, following the emergency repair of a water facility at Angat Dam.

A late Maynilad bulletin yesterday however claimed water supply might normalize by noon today.

The Manila Water Company Inc., the company that controls the east zone, also announced yesterday a 26-centavo-per-cubic-meter increase in water rates effective this month.

Affected by the unstable Maynilad water supply will be residents of Sampaloc in Manila, Quezon City, Valenzuela, Malabon, Navotas, Las Piñas, and Parañaque, said Maynilad engineer Edgardo Esteban.

Esteban said the company's water supply was reduced by 30 to 40 percent after the Angat Dam's Turbine No. 5 bogged

WATER RATES/ A16

Give blood, save a child

IN observance of Holy Week, the Pediatric Blood Bank of the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC) will hold a bloodletting campaign. The PCMC staff will be the first to respond to the call to donate blood.

PCMC appeals to the public to join its mission of healing the Filipino child.

The blood donation will serve not only the children of Metro Manila but will also reach children in the provinces in dire need of help.

Noted a PCMC appeal: "Jesus Christ made the ultimate sacrifice of giving his life to save us. He poured his blood so that our sins may be forgiven. Let us make a special penitence by offering our own blood to save children's lives."

For more information, please contact: Nona Andaya-Castillo, Public Relations Officer III at tel. nos. 924-6601 to 25 local 344.

FACED with a serious water shortage, Manila residents would have to make do with the few liters squeezed out of an old fire hydrant fitted with a pipe. ERIK ARAZAS

Palm Sunday peacemaker ends up dead

IN the spirit of Lent, Anastacio Acebuche, 17, approached his 18-year-old foe in Quezon City on Palm Sunday and tried to end their misunderstanding. But the man who offered peace ended up dead instead.

Suspect Jaime Cruz Jr., also known as "Jun-jun," of 162 Ranger Road, Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City, stabbed dead Acebuche, of 412 Constabulary Road, also in Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City, after the victim approached him Sunday night, said investigator PO2 Pedrito Miranda, of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

The two had held an old grudge against each other for a still unknown reason, Miranda added.

PALM/A16

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2 killed as Starex rams Volks in QC

By Philip C. Tubeza

TWO persons, including a 78-year-old woman, were killed after a Starex van rammed into a Volkswagen Beetle on Quezon Avenue around noon yesterday.

The collision also left five persons injured.

Perla Ebrada, 78, and Perry Taña, 56, both of 60 South Maya St., Philam Homes, Quezon City, were killed after the Volkswagen (with Plate No. NER-793) they were riding was struck by the Hyundai Starex van (MNJ-997) driven by Archie T. Pitallo, 20, said traffic investigator PO2 Carlito Pagtalunan.

Besides Pitallo and his passengers James and Jack Sy, Ebrada family members Dangco, 8; and Allan, 78, were also injured in the crash.

Pagtalunan said Pitallo was driving his van around 11 a.m. along Quezon Avenue on his way to Manila when the accident happened at the corner of Examiner Street.

The Volkswagen had just crossed Quezon Avenue from Scout Albano to Examiner when the van hit the right side portion of the victim's car, said Malou Saga, Central Police District-Traffic Sector I radio operator.

The strong impact caused the car to turn full circle before smashing into a traffic light, Saga added.

The victims were brought to the Capitol Medical Center but Ebrada was declared dead on arrival. Taña died later while undergoing surgery.

Pitallo was still at the hospital as of press time yesterday. He faces charges of reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide, physical injuries, and damage to property.

CONCERNED RESIDENTS

Manila Water authorities should be ashamed, but they would instead be glad to know that portions of G. Enriquez Street in Barangay Vergara, Mandaluyong City, which their workers had dug up and left in a mess, have been repaired by concerned residents, including kids, through the efforts of Alige, a newly formed civic association in the riverside village. FE LACSAMANA

The only way to deal with Moro terrorists

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THIRTEEN Abu Sayyaf bandits were captured after a brief shootout with government troops in Sulu Saturday night, according to a military report.

Many citizens heard President Macapagal-Arroyo announce that the government would take no prisoners when she ordered soldiers to conduct search-and-destroy operations against the abusive, intransigent Moro group.

Then why were the 13 captured terrorists spared? They should have been shot down like pigs since they are no better than the four-legged creatures.

* * *

Most people in Mindanao welcomed Ms Arroyo's very strong order against the Abu Sayyaf. When she said that there should be no prisoners, they applauded her even more.

To the people of Mindanao Ms Arroyo has sent a strong signal that abusive Moros would be dealt with a mailed fist. If they kill innocent civilians, they would suffer the fate of their victims.

It was high time the government played the Moros' kind of game: an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. The Christian doctrine of throwing bread at your enemy when he hurls a rock at you is taken for a weakness.

* * *

Government soldiers should search for the Abu Sayyaf in all the nooks and crannies of Sulu and Basilan—in the mountains, forests, caves. When they come across these terrorists, they should shot them down without mercy, the way they shot down innocent unarmed civilians.

People who are hiding them should be lined up against the wall and shot along with the captured terrorists. That is the way in war.

And that's the only way to deal with Moro terrorists

* * *

The government's conciliatory attitude toward Moro terrorists has been perceived by these Moros as cowardice.

Presidents Marcos, Aquino and Ramos had spoiled the Moros. Marcos was the worst; he gave them permits to import sardines, rice and sugar and allowed them to indiscriminately cut down trees in Mindanao's virgin forests.

And yet, the Moros were not satisfied. They continue to demand more from the government.

* * *

If it can't be helped that President Erap should be arrested before the May 14 elections because the country's judicial system demands it, the Arroyo administration should explain that it's not out of vindictiveness.

The citizeury should be made to understand that nobody is above the law.

Although the government might only be showing political will in arresting Erap, many citizerns would take it as oppression, like kicking a person when he's already down.

* * *

Just when the National Bureau of Investigation has announced the cracking of the disappearance (and possible murder) of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer, a Catholic priest is now muddling the case.

Fr. Gabriel Baldostan says that former President Ramos and ex-National Security Adviser Jose Almonte may have known the kidnappers.

The good padre probably wants his name read in the newspapers or mentioned in radio and television.

Blame Jaime Cardinal Sin and "running" priest Robert Reyes for infecting other members of the Catholic clergy with the "news fever."

Gusto rin ng ibang pari na sumikat.

* * *

My sources in the Visayas say that a shipload of smuggled rice from Thailand found its way to the port of Dumaguete City recently.

The smuggled rice allegedly belonged to a group of smuggler.

The ship that carried the smuggled cargo was MV Cajun, according to the sources.

Proceeds from the smuggled rice were to be spent in the election campaign.

Barangay official denies hand in Parañaque slay

By Alcuin Papa

A MANILA barangay captain suspected of masterminding the April 2 ambush of Prosecutor Domingo Orda's son yesterday admitted that two of those arrested for the killing were her henchmen.

But Ligaya Santos, an official of barangay 659-A in Arrocceros, Manila, denied any involvement in the killing of Francis Orda in Parañaque City.

Supt. Ronald Estilles, Parañaque City police chief, identified the suspects as Rolly Tonion, 34, a native of Villapando, Masbate and resident of Liwasang Bonifacio; and Jun Rey Soriano, 36, of Dolores San Roque Street, Tausug, Zamboanga. The two were arrested on Friday in Liwasang Bonifacio where they work as dispatchers for public utility vehicles.

In a phone interview, Estilles revealed that Santos went to his office yesterday to ask him why her men were arrested.

Estilles responded by saying they have solid evidence to link the two to the ambush of Orda's son based on witnesses' description.

Another set of witnesses also identified the suspects as the same ones who tried to kill Prosecutor Orda on Jan. 17 also in Parañaque, Estilles said.

Orda survived that ambush but one of his children was injured.

"They have been positively identified so we cannot release them," Estilles said. "Besides, murder charges have already been filed against them before the fiscal's office."

The Parañaque police chief added the two suspects have also been charged with frustrated homicide for beating up Reynalda Orda, the prosecutor's wife.

The INQUIRER earlier reported that there had been at least three attempts on Orda's life. The police chief believed that the attempts could have been rooted in the deep-seated rift between Santos and Orda's wife.

Estilles explained that Reynalda Orda maintained an eatery on Arroceros Street, which Santos had wanted to close down. But Orda's wife resisted, and this fueled their spat.

Estilles added that the names of the two suspects also cropped up in their investigation of the ambush of a certain SPO4 Ocampo last year.

Ocampo, who used to operate a fleet of FX taxis based in Liwasang Bonifacio, had a falling out with Santos. Ocampo then asked the help of Prosecutor Orda, who filed charges on his behalf, Estilles said.

Three men shot dead Orda's son Francis, 20, in Parañaque on April 2. Francis had just taken home a policeman assigned to protect his family when he was ambushed on Saudi Arabia Street at about 6:30 p.m.

On March 28, gunmen on board a Toyota Corolla tried but failed to kill Orda, also on the same street.

Peeping Tom blamed for fire that killed elderly woman in Tondo

By Jerome Aning

A VOYEUR who dropped the candle he was carrying as he spied on his bathing sister-in-law allegedly sparked the two-hour fire that killed an elderly woman, injured a firefighter and gutted about a dozen houses in Binondo, Manila before dawn yesterday.

The body of Elena Garcia, 65, married, of 216 Bagong Alay Street, Del Pan, Binondo, was charred beyond recognition.

FO1 Oscar Rupero of the city fire department said Garcia, who was trapped on the ground floor of her two-story house, may have suffocated first before the flames reached her.

FO3 Wilfredo Silverio, 35, suffered second-degree burns on his hands while he and other firemen were putting out the blaze.

FO1 Rupero said the fire broke out about 1 a.m. at Romeo Macamay's house on 213 Bagong Alay Street. The fire, which reached Task Force Alpha alarm, spread to nine other houses before it was put out about 3 a.m.

Investigators are looking into some residents' claims that Macamay accidentally started the fire when he dropped a lighted candle on thin plywood as he was peeping through a hole in the bathroom where his sister-in-law was taking a bath.

Macamay, 33, reportedly helped in putting out the fire and, as a result, suffered burns on his back.

Police questioned Macamay at the Manila fire department's Central Station in Sta. Cruz.

But Macamay, a paroled convict, vehemently denied he was a peeping tom and debunked allegations that he started the fire. He in turn accused neighbors of spreading the rumors.

Fire investigators said they would wait for the testimony of Bagong Alay residents before they could build a case of arson with murder and damage to property against Macamay.

Fire investigators pegged damages to property between P6 and P10 million.

4 in gang behind robberies nabbed

By Agnes E. Donato

FOUR of the seven men believed to be behind the spate of robberies in eastern Metro Manila were arrested after they failed to grab an FX taxi in Mandaluyong City yesterday.

Supt. Jose Gentiles, Mandaluyong City police chief, identified the suspects as Bonifacio Morales, 33; Leonor Morales, 30; Marolon Dulay, 28; and Roberto Santos, 27.

The arrests came after the group failed in their attempt to grab a Tamaraw FX (Plate No. WES 733) being driven by Cesario Pepellero along Shaw Boulevard at about 1 p.m. yesterday.

Papellero told the police that he picked up the four suspects and their three companions in front of the National Bookstore at the Edsa Central Shopping Complex around noontime.

He said the vehicle was plying along Shaw Boulevard near the Wack-Wack Subdivision when one of the suspects pulled out a .22 caliber rifle with silencer and poked it at him.

The suspect then asked the driver to hand over the keys of the car, which the group would reportedly be using for another robbery operation.

But when the suspect was about to shoot him, Papellero swerved sharply to the right and jumped out of the car. He ran toward a nearby construction site and called the police.

The suspects were apparently waiting for Papellero to come out when a police team led by SPO1 Richard Masilang arrived and nabbed four of them.

The suspects denied the allegations, saying they were trying to get Papellero because they wanted to avenge the rape of Morales' sister.

The arrested suspects are detained at the Mandaluyong police station.

Gentiles said he would coordinate with the police units of San Juan, Pasig and Marikina to determine if the same suspects were behind the recent robberies in their respective areas.

FAKED AGAIN

Despite repeated campaigns against bogus merchandise, the underworld cannot seem to run out of fake Fundador brandy. Supt. Ortega of the Central Police District Station 10 shows off one of the 50 boxes of the fake liquor which police confiscated in a raid at a cold storage plant in Quirino, Novaliches, Quezon City yesterday. EDWIN BACASMAS

Water rates going up . . .

(From page A15)

down following the Luzon-wide blackout last Saturday.

In a Maynilad bulletin at 5 p.m. yesterday, Esteban said water supply might become stable today after the National Power Corporation opened a Lower Level Outtake from Angat Dam as an alternative to the closed turbine.

Meanwhile, Manila Water said it would charge an additional 26 centavos per cubic meter from the last two weeks of this month until December 2002.

The increase will be reflected on the May billing period.

The company said the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System allowed the "provisional increase" granted it would explain how it would refund its customers should it lose the litigation at the Court of Appeals.

Last year, the company proposed an 18-centavo increase, but the proposal was questioned by the MWSS. The case is now pending before the Court of Appeals.

The proposed increase soared to 26 centavos due to the delay, the company said.

Manila Water provides water supply in Makati, Mandaluyong, San Juan, Angono, Baras, Binangonan, Cainta, Cardona, Jala-jala, Morong, Pililla, Rodriguez, San Mateo, Tanay, Taytay, and parts of Marikina, Taguig, Pasig, Pateros, and Quezon City.

Cop shoots self during scuffle

A MEMBER of the Western Police District accidentally fired at himself during a scuffle with two other policemen who accosted him for allegedly trying to rob a messenger in Paco, Manila yesterday afternoon.

PO3 Luisito Morales, assigned at the WPD Integrated Jail, will be investigated by WPD's General Assignments Section (GAS) as soon as he is discharged from the Ospital ng Maynila.

Police said the bullet severed part of Morales' penis and pierced one of his testicles before it lodged in his groin. Police are also looking for Morales' companion, who escaped on board a motorcycle.

GAS investigator SPO3 Cecilio Sacorum said the suspect tried to rob Ariel Silvio, 32, a messenger of Pacific Asia currency exchange firm, of an envelope containing cash, several checks, and important documents that he was to deliver to one of his firm's clients.

Jerome Aning

Complaint filed vs MRT officer

ERGONOMIC Systems Phils Inc. (Ergo) has served Paul Daza, vice president for corporate affairs of the Metro Rail Transit Co., with a complaint-affidavit of theft before the Makati Regional Trial Court (RTC).

Daza, who is also president of Philippine Laminate Inc. (PLI), is the principal respondent in the criminal case filed by Ergo. The complaint charges Daza and other PLI officers with having allegedly taken illegal possession of Ergo's stock inventory kept at the second floor of the PLI warehouse, which ERGO was leasing. The stocks are claimed to have an estimated value of P19 million.

The complaint also stated that part of the company's inventory was missing while others had been mislabeled as PLI goods when the Makati sheriff recovered Ergo stocks from the PLI warehouse last Dec. 28, 2000 and Jan., 12, 2001. It also illustrated that between November 2000 and January 2001, only PLI employees had access to the premises.

Palm Sunday . . .

(From page A15)

Miranda said the victim was walking along Marine street with his friends Aris Alcantara and Teofilo Tolebas around 11:30 p.m. Sunday when he saw Cruz.

Seeing the chance to end their rift, Acebuche approached the suspect. But Cruz was not in a "Lenten mood," said Miranda.

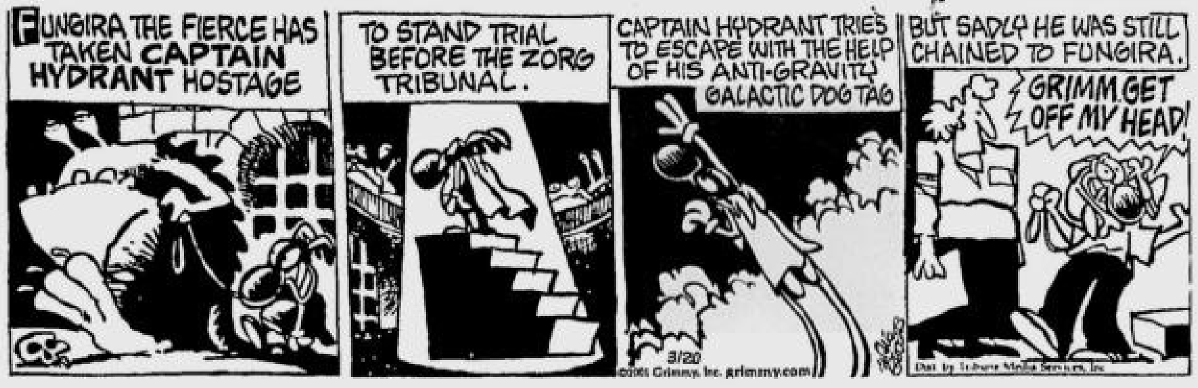
Instead of getting along, the two men got into a heated argument, he added.

At the height of their squabble, the suspect blew his top, pulled out a knife and stabbed the victim on the left side of his body, Miranda said.

Cruz then escaped on foot, leaving behind the knife used in the Palm Sunday slay.

Philip Tubeza

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


FUNGIRA THE FIERCE HAS TAKEN CAPTAIN HYDRANT HOSTAGE
TO STAND TRIAL BEFORE THE ZORG TRIBUNAL.
CAPTAIN HYDRANT TRIES TO ESCAPE WITH THE HELP OF HIS ANTI-GRAVITY GALACTIC DOG TAG
BUT SADLY HE WAS STILL CHAINED TO FUNGIRA.
GRIMM GET OFF MY HEAD!
3/20
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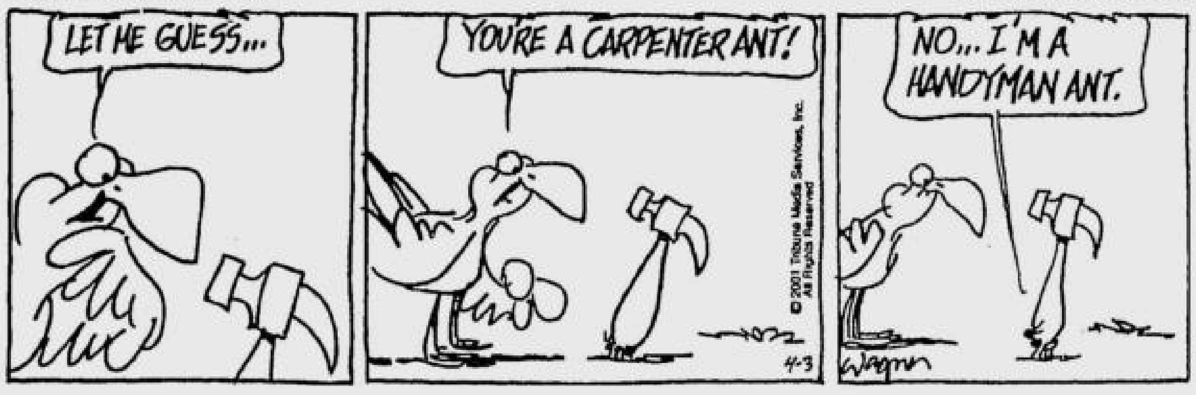
ANIMAL CRACKER BY FRED WAGNER


LET ME GUESS...
YOU'RE A CARPENTER ANT!
NO... I'M A HANDYMAN ANT.
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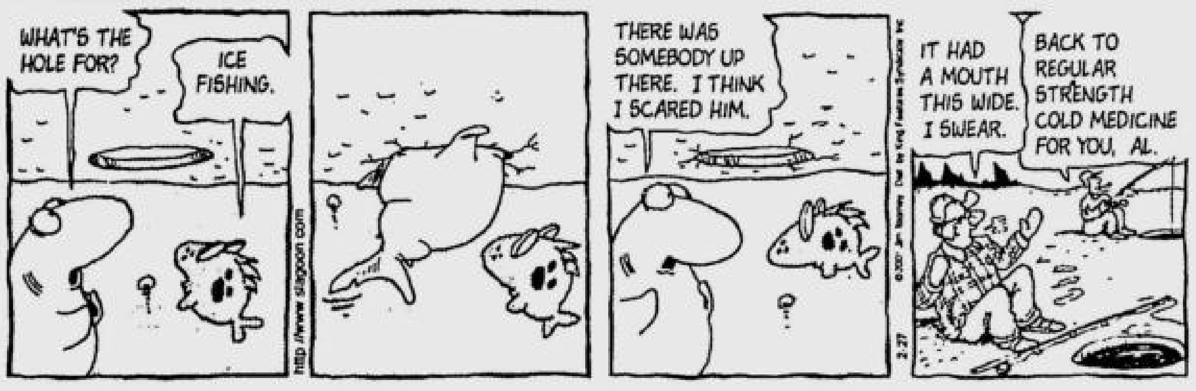
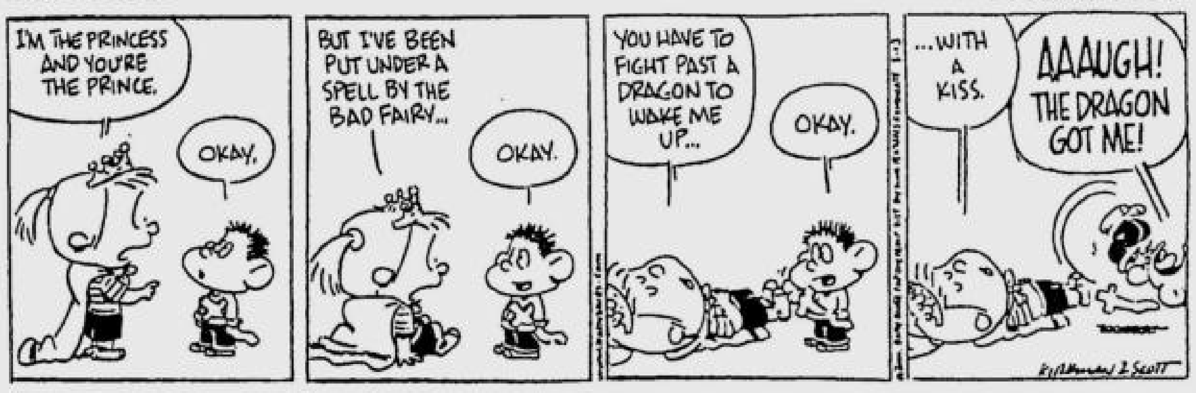
4-3
Wagner

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


WHAT'S THE HOLE FOR?
ICE FISHING.
THERE WAS SOMEBODY UP THERE. I THINK I SCARED HIM.
IT HAD A MOUTH THIS WIDE. I SWEAR.
BACK TO REGULAR STRENGTH COLD MEDICINE FOR YOU, AL.
http://www.slagoon.com
2-27

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


I'M THE PRINCESS AND YOU'RE THE PRINCE.
OKAY.
BUT I'VE BEEN PUT UNDER A SPELL BY THE BAD FAIRY...
OKAY.
YOU HAVE TO FIGHT PAST A DRAGON TO WAKE ME UP...
OKAY.
...WITH A KISS.
AAAUGH! THE DRAGON GOT ME!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Steven Seagal, Chuck Connors, Omar Sharif, Mandy Moore, John Madden, Babyface, Brian Setzer, Haley Joel Osment

Happy Birthday: Don't let things get to you. Settle down and work on your future goals. Look at yourself in the mirror and discover who you really are and how much you have to offer. It's time to believe in yourself and to raise your self-confidence. You can make the right choices if you take your time and determine what you really want. Your numbers: 8, 13, 19, 31, 33, 38

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Extravagance will be your downfall. Learn to say no to those who are too demanding. Changes may not be to your liking, but if you're patient things will turn out reasonably well.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your strong, dependable nature will bring you popularity. New romantic partners may stroll into your life. Be sure to attend ceremonies that will bring you into contact with old friends.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Help peers meet their deadlines, and you'll have friends when you're in need. Your versatility will enable you to do a vast number of jobs. Don't spread yourself too thin. Pick projects you enjoy.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Social events will turn out better than you anticipated. Love is evident. Your changing attitude will attract a different kind of mate. Work on building up your confidence.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll be in a predicament with family members if you've made promises you can't keep. Changes will not be that easy for you to adjust to. Moderation will be the key.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll make new friends if you get out and mingle. People will gravitate to your organized approach to life. You can help bring order to the lives of those you get to know better.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Be careful not to divulge secret information at work. You can make some positive changes to your living arrangements if you are willing to do the work yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Social activities should involve large groups of people. You need to meet as many new acquaintances as possible. Your need to experience new avenues will lead you into unusual situations.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You're probably not getting the whole scoop. You'll have to dig deep and ask a lot of questions if you want to get to the bottom of things. Don't be afraid to be pushy if necessary.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't be too eager to pay for those you love. Find out if they are worthy of your help. They may not be telling you everything you need to know about the situation. Don't let yourself be taken for granted.

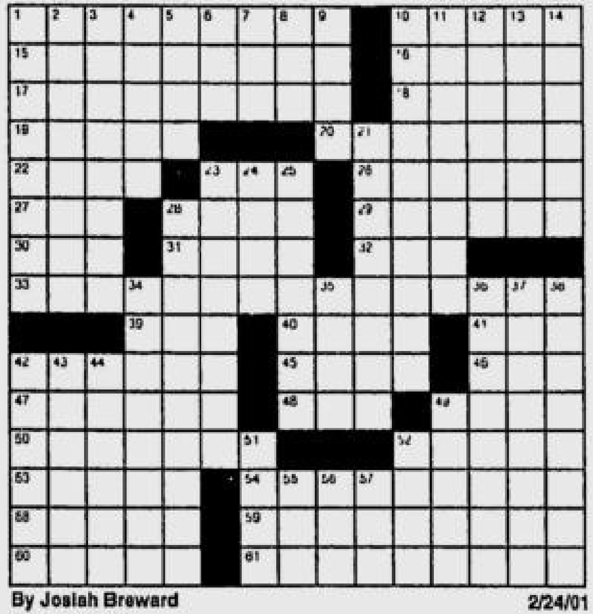
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't point the finger at your mate. It takes two to tango, and lately you've been somewhat neglectful. Question your own motives before you start badgering your partner.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You need to travel to an exotic place or at least be able to dream about it. Try to experience something unique. Visit your local museum.

Birthday Baby: You are one complicated character. You appear to be so steady and stable most of the time, but unpredictable events will take you by surprise and toss you in all sorts of interesting and adventuresome directions. You will become a master at the art of change.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA
2/24/01

ACROSS
1 Child rearing
10 British baby buggies
15 Of lymphatic glands
16 Load more salsa on one's chip
17 Teach a refresher course
18 Early-stage seed
19 Priscilla's dear John
20 Getty of "The Golden Girls"
22 "The best __ plans..."
23 "__ Comedy Jam"
26 Separated
27 Invent facts
28 Belem's state
29 Excretes
30 O'Neill and Sullivan
31 Addiction: suff.
32 Cellmate
33 Have a ball
39 Member of the fam.
40 "The Joy of Cooking" author Rombauer
41 Thai's neighbor
42 "Phaedra" dramatist
45 Corrida calls
46 Drunk-tank letters
47 Mental pictures
48 __ sequitur
49 Against: pref.
50 Weakest
52 Painter of the Ashcan School
53 Large antelope
54 Too big
58 Katmandu's land
59 Slowpokes
60 Stone tablet
61 Sugary quality

DOWN
1 Analogy
2 Australian city
3 Most thin and fragile
4 Finished
5 Person, place or thing
6 Muscle spasm
7 Lupino or Tarbell
8 __ "King" Cole
9 Delight
10 Greek considered to be the first Sophist
11 Minister
12 Mature individuals
13 "The Gleaners" painter
14 Slow and fast, for example
21 Sample
23 Stag
24 Goddess of strife
25 Current mode
28 Fir leaf
34 First
35 Woody Guthrie's son
36 Ancient Icelandic tongue
37 Power figures
38 Busybody's problem
42 Matures
43 Charm
44 Hors d'oeuvre
49 Prost or Resnais
51 Toddlers
52 Tab's target
55 Solemn promise
56 Before, to a bard
57 Hwy. sign

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

P	S	S	T	■	S	C	U	M	■	C	A	T	C	H
L	O	P	E	■	E	L	S	E	■	A	N	O	L	E
A	L	O	E	■	T	O	U	R	■	N	A	T	A	L
T	O	R	T	S	■	C	A	C	A	O	■	E	R	E
■	■	T	H	I	N	K	L	I	K	E	A	M	A	N
E	S	S	E	N	E	■	■	■	A	I	R	■	■	■
R	O	C	■	■	R	H	O	S	■	S	I	D	O	N
O	F	A	C	T	I	O	N	A	C	T	L	I	K	E
S	A	R	A	H	■	P	E	N	H	■	■	R	I	A
■	■	■	I	R	A	■	■	■	O	U	S	T	E	R
A	M	A	N	O	F	T	H	O	U	G	H	T	■	■
L	A	M	■	S	T	R	E	W	■	H	I	R	A	M
P	L	A	N	T	■	O	L	L	A	■	R	A	C	E
H	A	Z	E	L	■	P	O	E	M	■	E	C	H	O
A	R	E	T	E	■	E	T	T	A	■	S	K	E	W

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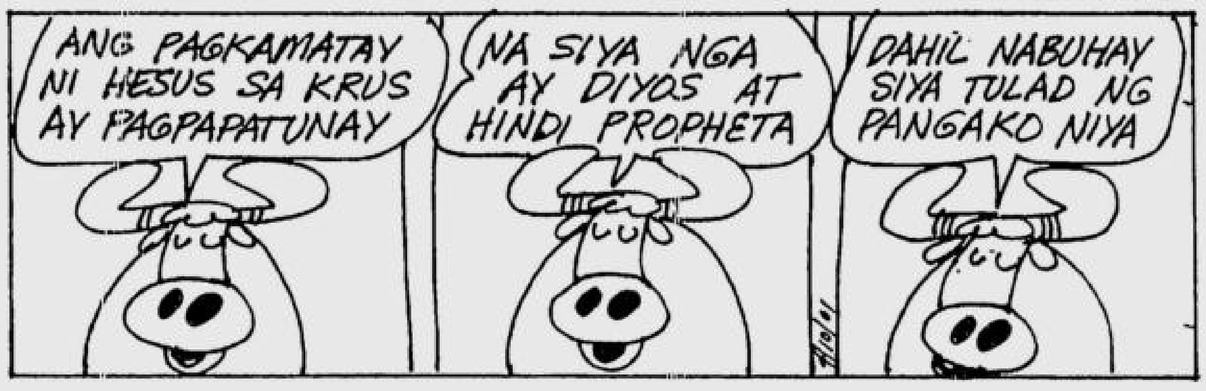
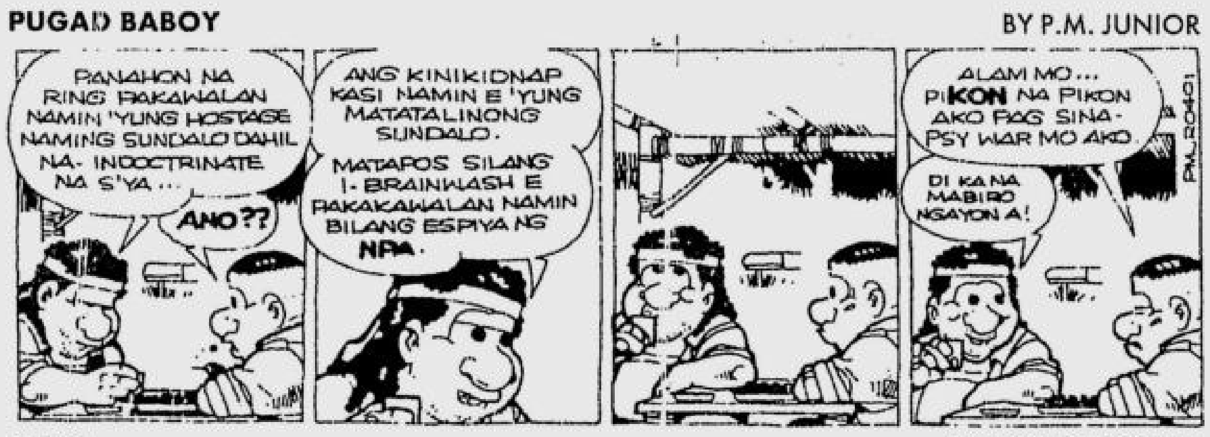
2/24/01

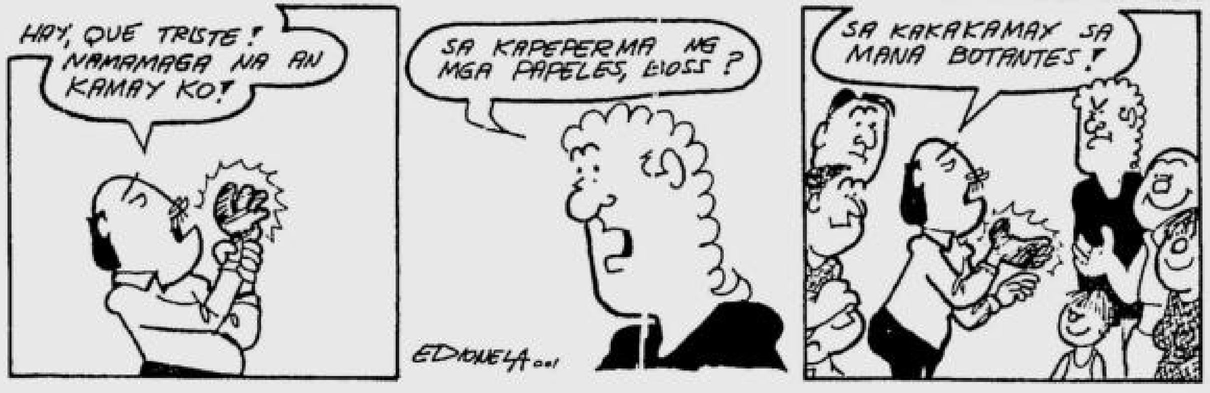
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


ANG PAGKAMATAY NI HESUS SA KRUS AY PAGPAPATUNAY
NA SIYA NGA AY DIYOS AT HINDI PROPHETA
DAHIL NABUHAY SIYA TULAD NG PANGAKO NIYA
4/10/01

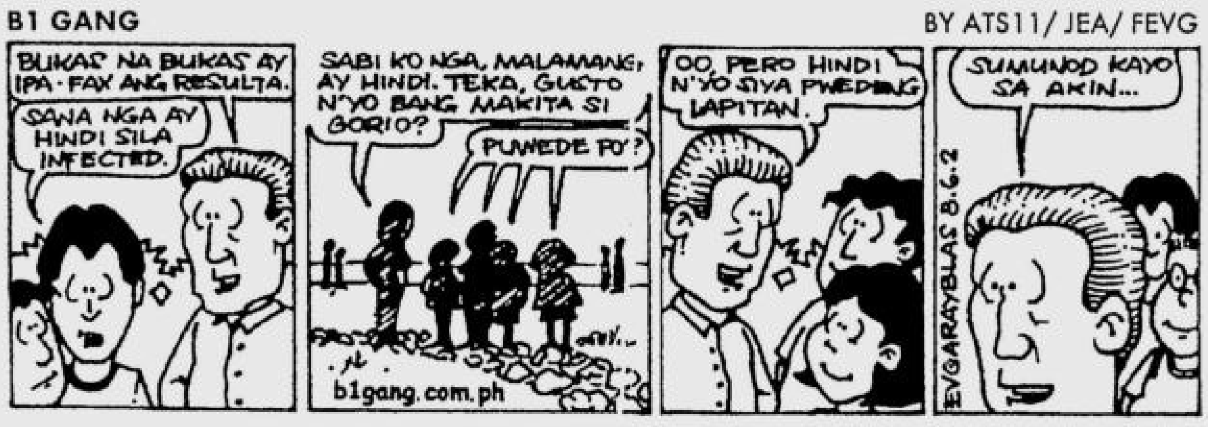
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


PANAHON NA RING PAKAWALAN NAMIN 'YUNG HOSTAGE NAMING SUNDALO DAHIL NA-INDOCTRINATE NA S'YA...
ANO??
ANG KINIKIDNAP KASI NAMIN E 'YUNG MATATALINONG SUNDALO.
MATAPOS SILANG I-BRAINWASH E PAKAKAWALAN NAMIN BILANG ESPIYA NG NPA.
ALAM MO... PIKON NA PIKON AKO PAG SINA-PSY WAR MO AKO.
DI KA NA MABIRO NGAYON A!
PM R0401

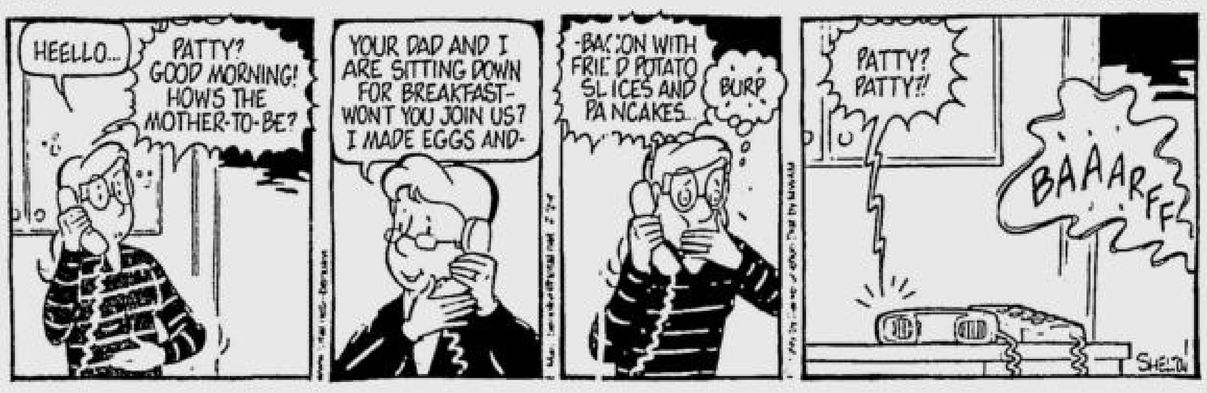
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


HAY, QUE TRISTE! NAMAMAGA NA AN KAMAY KO!
SA KAPEPERMA NG MGA PAPELES, BOSS?
SA KAKAKAMAY SA MANA BOTANTES!
EDIONELA 2001

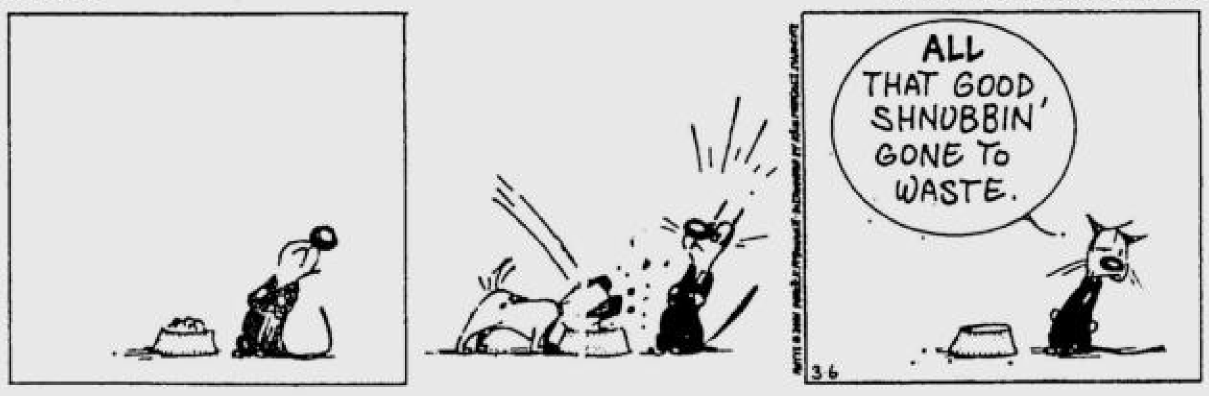
B1 GANG BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


BUKAS NA BUKAS AY IPA-FAX ANG RESULTA.
SANA NGA AY HINDI SILA INFECTED.
SABI KO NGA, MALAMANG AY HINDI. TEKA, GUSTO N'YO BANG MAKITA SI GORIO?
PUWEDE PO?
OO, PERO HINDI N'YO SIYA PWEDENG LAPITAN.
SUMUNOD KAYO SA AKIN...
b1gang.com.ph
EVGARAYBLAS 8.6.2

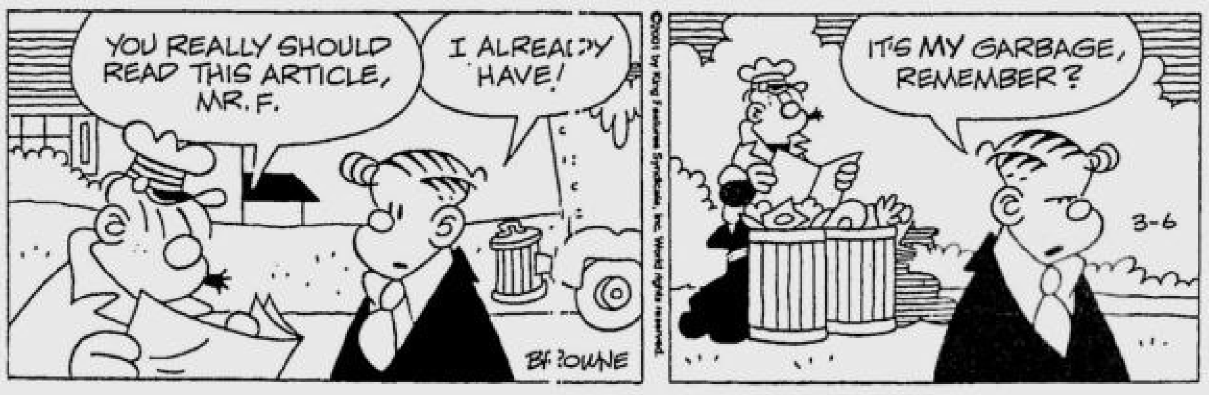
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


HEELLO...
PATTY? GOOD MORNING! HOW'S THE MOTHER-TO-BE?
YOUR DAD AND I ARE SITTING DOWN FOR BREAKFAST- WON'T YOU JOIN US? I MADE EGGS AND-
-BACON WITH FRIED POTATO SLICES AND PANCAKES...
BURP
PATTY? PATTY?!
BAAARFF
SHELTON

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


ALL THAT GOOD SHNUBBIN' GONE TO WASTE.
3-6

HI AND LOIS BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


YOU REALLY SHOULD READ THIS ARTICLE, MR. F.
I ALREADY HAVE!
IT'S MY GARBAGE, REMEMBER?
3-6
BROWNE
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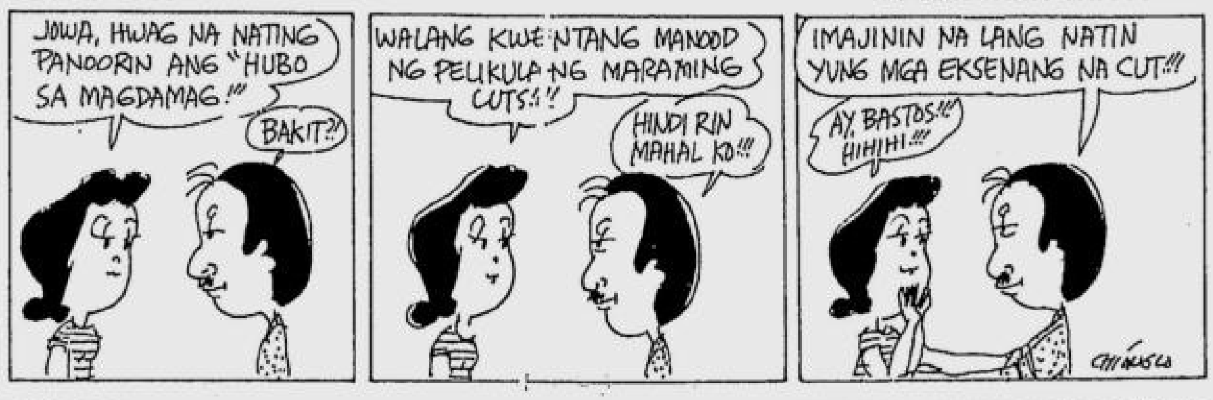
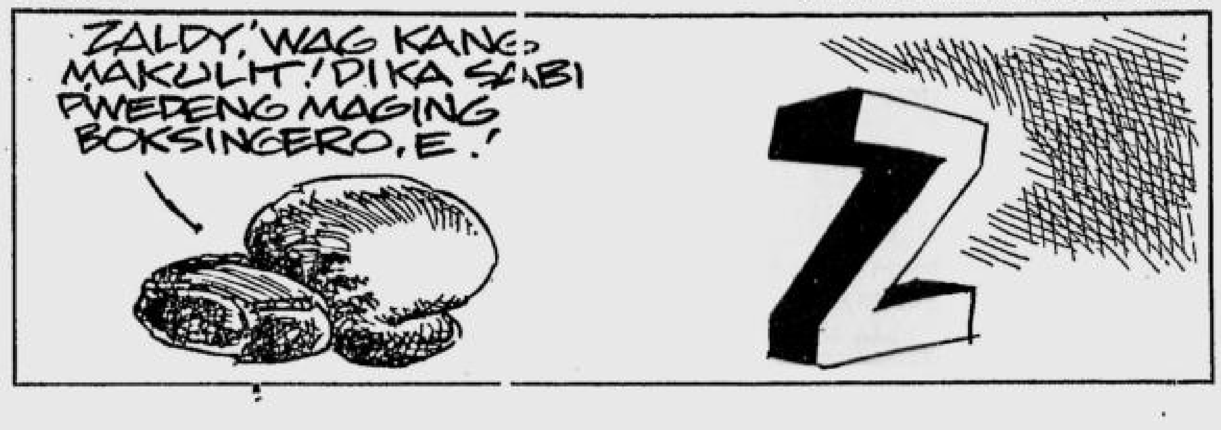
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, HWAG NA NATING PANOORIN ANG "HUBO SA MAGDAMAG!"
BAKIT?!
WALANG KWENTANG MANOOD NG PELIKULANG MARAMING CUTS!!
HINDI RIN MAHAL KO!!!
IMAJININ NA LANG NATIN YUNG MGA EKSENANG NA CUT!!!
AY, BASTOS!!! HIHIHI!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


ZALDY, 'WAG KANG MAKULIT! DI KA SABI PWEDENG MAGING BOKSINGERO, E.'
Z

SM CINEMA GUIDE

SM Dial-A-Movie • Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR 4173808

1	DOLBY SURROUND	QUILLS
2	DOLBY SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	GLADIATOR (RI)
6	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIINTAY
7	DOLBY SURROUND	THEY NEST
8	DOLBY SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522 • 7161416

1	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	DOLBY SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
3	DTS	GLADIATOR (RI)
4	DOLBY SURROUND	THE GIFT
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
7	DOLBY SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
8	DOLBY SURROUND	BAIT
9	DOLBY SURROUND	THEY NEST
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	DOLBY SURROUND	JOAN OF ARC
2	DOLBY SURROUND	THE GIFT
3	DOLBY SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
5	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
6	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN (RI)
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	GLADIATOR (RI)
8	DOLBY SURROUND	THEY NEST
9	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
10	DOLBY SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
11	DOLBY SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
12	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE GIFT
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	THEY NEST
3	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
4	DOLBY SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	WEDDING PLANNER
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	GLADIATOR (RI)
7	DOLBY SURROUND	ACHILLES
8	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
9	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
10	DOLBY SURROUND	PAY IT FORWARD
11	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
12	DOLBY SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HOSTAGE
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
4	DTS	THEY NEST
5	DOLBY SURROUND	THE GIFT
6	DOLBY SURROUND	GLADIATOR (RI)
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
9	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	CROUCHING TIGER (RI)
2	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
4	DOLBY SURROUND	ACHILLES
5	DOLBY SURROUND	THEY NEST
6	DOLBY SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
7	DTS	GLADIATOR (RI)
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
10	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE GIFT
12	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888 • 8066782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	ULTRA SURROUND	THEY NEST
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	ULTRA SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
7	ULTRA SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	GLADIATOR (RI)
9	ULTRA SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
10	ULTRA SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	GLADIATOR (RI)
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THEY NEST
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	GLADIATOR (RI)
2	ULTRA SURROUND	BILLY ELLIOT
3	ULTRA SURROUND	CHOCOLAT
4	ULTRA SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
5	ULTRA SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK
6	ULTRA SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SECRET OF THE ANDES

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	DEMON GATE
4	ULTRA SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
5	ULTRA SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
6	ULTRA SURROUND	CHOCOLAT
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	GLADIATOR (RI)
3	DOLBY SURROUND	QUILLS
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE GIFT
6	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

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reserve seats through www.sureseats.com

GLORIETTA 1 (formerly QUAD)

1	GLADIATOR
2	MS. CONGENIALITY
3	SEDUCER
4	THEY NEST

All Digital Sound
GLORIETTA 4

1	CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	THE GIFT in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	GLADIATOR THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	SECRET OF THE ANDES Art Film in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	CHOCOLAT in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	SAVE THE LAST DANCE in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	WEDDING PLANNER in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	MALENA in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	GLADIATOR in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	SAVE THE LAST DANCE in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	APRIL 6, 7, 20, & 21 GARY V. BY REQUEST 2 Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	GLADIATOR THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	THE GIFT in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	SAVE THE LAST DANCE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	WEDDING PLANNER in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	CHOCOLAT in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
2 (SDDS)	THEY NEST
3 (DTS)	PERFECT STORM
4 GOLD (DTS)	GLADIATOR
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE GIFT
6 GOLD (SDDS)	THE REPLACEMENT
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	WEDDING PLANNER
8	ERIN BROCKOVICH
9	ROMEO MUST DIE
10	PATRIOT

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	UHAW SA INIT
2	KRISTO
3 (DTS)	
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	GLADIATOR
2 (DTS)	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA
3	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA
2	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
3	UHAW SA INIT

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	RESERVE
2	DI MAPIGL ANG INIT
3	UHAW SA INIT
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	GLADIATOR
5	KRISTO

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2	RESERVE
3	THEY NEST
4	UHAW SA INIT
5	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
6	GLADIATOR
7	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA
8	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Uniwide Metromall
(Las Piñas) tel. 873.5606 loc. 1074

1	
2	SAMBAHIN ANG PURI MO
3	THE REPLACEMENT
4	THE ELIMINATOR
5	WATCH 3 MOVIES FOPR P30 00
6	

Uniwide Coastal Mall
(Parañaque) tel 879.0001 loc. 2152

1	WATCH 3 MOVIE FOR P30 00
2	IKAW LAMANG
3	MAY GATAS PA SA LABI
4	THE ELIMINATOR

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	PAY IT FORWARD
2	OOOPS TEKA LANG

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	RESERVE
2	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
3	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
A	KRISTO

JC Cinema
(Parañaque) tel 825.8626

1	
3	

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	GLADIATOR
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA
5	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
6	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
7 (DTS)	THE GIFT
8 (SDDS)	THEY NEST
9 (DOLBY)	SAVE THE LAST DANCE

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	
6	

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	BABAENG PUTIK
3	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4 (SDDS)	THEY NEST
5	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA
6 (DOLBY)	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
7 (DTS)	GLADIATOR
8	KRISTO
9	UHAW SA INIT

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	GLADIATOR
2	RESERVE
3	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4	UHAW SA INIT
5 (SDDS)	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
6	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA
7 (DOLBY)	THEY NEST
8	OOPS TEKA LANG

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA
3 (DTS)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
5 (SDDS)	GLADIATOR
6 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
7 (DOLBY)	RESERVE

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
Lords	BODY TO BODY
Jennet	BABAENG PUTIK

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	KRISTO
2	GLADIATOR
3	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4	WEDDING PLANNER

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238

1	THEY NEST
2	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA
3	REVELATION
4	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
5	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619

1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2	UHAW SA INIT
3	TOTAL AIKIDO
4	GLADIATOR
5	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA
6	REVELATION

Baclaran LRT Cinema
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116

1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA
3	REVELATION

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	BABAENG PUTIK
2	UHAW SA INIT
3 (DTS)	GLADIATOR

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	BABAENG PUTIK
2 (DTS)	QUILLS
3 (DOLBY)	THE GIFT
4	GLADIATOR

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	GLADIATOR
2	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
3	UHAW SA INIT
4 (DTS)	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	THE GIFT
2	BABAENG PUTIK
3 (DTS)	GLADIATOR
4	TOTAL AIKIDO
5	UHAW SA INIT

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	GLADIATOR
2	BABAENG PUTIK
3	UHAW SA INIT

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	GLADIATOR
2	QUILLS
3	UHAW SA INIT

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0321

1	[illegible]
2	PANABLA
3	UHAW SA INIT

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	TANGING YAMAN
2	GLADIATOR
3	SAVE THE LAST DANCE

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
3	RESERVE
4	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA

Cabuyao
CINEMAS TEL (049) 5314808

1 (DTS)	BABAENG PUTIK
2 (DTS)	TANGING YAMAN

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	UHAW SA INIT
2	BABAENG PUTIK
3	TOTAL AIKIDO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	BABAENG PUTIK
2	UHAW SA INIT
3	THE BAIT
4	WEDDING PLANNER

Berma
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A GLORIOUS musical experience is set to unfold on April 28, 7 p.m., when the Ateneo de Manila College Glee Club and the San Beda High School Glee Club will render musical pieces from the masters of classical and contemporary music, in a special performance, "One Divine Evening," slated at the Abbey Of Our Lady of Montserrat Church inside San Beda College.

The concert marks the first time that the San Beda High School Glee Club and the Ateneo de Manila College Glee Club will share the stage.

Still high on the success of their nationwide concert tour last year, the San Beda High School Glee Club or the GC Generation is all set for another great performance with their conductor, Antonio Africa. The 16 bright and talented students will render a capella versions of "Hindi Kita Malimot" and Gregorian Chants as part of their repertoire.

Home again after an international tour is the Ateneo de Manila College Glee Club. For the concert, the group will perform under the musical direction of Prof. Joel Navarro, Jonathan Velasco and Ma. Rosario Elegado as guest conductors.

For their repertoire, the group has put together songs from Johannes Brahms, Frances Poulenc, George Canseco, Ryan Cayabyab and even David Pomeranz.

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EX-SCREENWRITER MAKES A STAND

Is the movie industry losing its sense of sin?

BY BABY R. NEBRIDA

THE CONTROVERSY rages on about the film "Live Show," I would have opted to just keep quiet and let others fight the spiritual and moral battles. I would not want to lose my friends in the industry because I treasure them.

But I am compelled to make a stand on this moral issue.

By choice, I am no longer active in doing movies. Since 1995, when my last movie was shown, I have been spending my time producing programs, mostly spiritual, for television. My last movie was a box-office hit and brought more than a hundred million pesos to my lucky producer. Astute in business, this known producer later on joined other film producers in making many offensive bold films that promoted cheap sex, adulterous relationships, fornication, scandal and promiscuity.

I could not understand how a person like my producer and our director, who both remained active in their Charismatic Catholic Community, could continue making movies with the same seedy sex themes.

A few times, I approached my show biz friends, writers and directors, and asked why they used their talent to make the devil happy. I would get giddy answer like "Bread trip *lang 'yan. Maiintindihan 'yan ng Diyos.*"

I am amazed at how they praise and worship God one day, and the next day in their shoots they expose the most private parts of the human anatomy in simulated sex acts.

Offending God

Among friends, I often argue that using their talents to promote the evil ways of society would offend God. Why won't these producers invest money in films that promote virtues and positive values? Teasingly, I even remind these active filmmakers who are still my friends that on Judgment Day, St. Peter will not even care about those countless trophies and awards they have collected. He will not even be impressed by the fame and fortune they have accumulated from the profits of their R-18 films.

But one thing is certain: There would be an accounting of how we've used God's gifts. Did we use them to corrupt others, especially the innocent? Did we use our skills and talents for gain, for ourselves and for God, and for others to be spiritually nourished and be uplifted?

When God is mentioned, people frown. It is as if He doesn't play any role in our lives. Most people even mock women like us for being "narrow-minded" and "crazy." To some of them, being a Marian devotee is like being "*manang*," and is corny or superstitious. To them, praying the rosary is boring and a waste of time.

An unfashionable life

We are branded as "fanatics" when people find out that we go to Mass and visit the Blessed Sacrament every day.

Living an upright kind of life seems unfashionable and unsophisticated among the circle of people I used to work with. Arrogant artists call us "*mababaw*," shallow. Oh, I have heard them all. But, really, I do not feel offended.

Twelve years living in New York and achieving much in the creative world gave me enough confidence in myself. Success is relative. What is important is finding peace and a sense of fulfillment in what we are tasked to do. God has been so good to my family and me that there is no reason to be bitter about life. True, there are snags and trials every now and then, but God's loving presence is constantly felt.

It is strange how my kind of spirituality does make some old friends feel a bit uneasy with me. Sure, they stand tall, firm and ever so proud of their artistry, their right to artistic expression, and their belief that they have all the right to create anything on film. They have become autonomous and a few have fallen in love with themselves, their great talents, their own desires and pleasures, and, now, they have even revolted against the Church and, in effect, against their Creator.

Denying sin

People do not realize that the primary cause of the present collapse of the Catholic Church, the worldwide crisis of faith and the chaos in society is the loss of the Grace of God because of the sins of mankind.

Didn't our Lord say, "Without Me, you can do nothing?" And without God's grace, man becomes his own arbiter of right and wrong, his own judge of good and evil, which always results in the most monstrous and preposterous actions and ideologies.

The reality of sin is denied in our day. The more aggressive ones attack it directly by claiming "there is no sin." Some deny sin by pretending it doesn't exist. They simply never speak of it.

Hardly have I heard people call "Live Show" an occasion of sin.

Not giving up

In my theology class in Maryknoll College, I learned that sin is the willful violation of the law of God, by desire, intention, thought, word, action or omission. It is a revolt against the Creator on whom we depend solely. It is a revolt against God the Son who redeemed us. It is a revolt against God the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us.

What really saddens me is how people from the film industry malign and question the concerns of His Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin. The Cardinal's duty is to protect his flock from the forces of evil. Understandably, he is tasked to get publicly involved in matters of faith and morals.

I am not giving up on us. There is still much hope in our troubled film industry because now we are on the right track.

Life is full of choices. Poverty is no excuse to promote degeneration, to deprive men and women of dignity and to break God's law.

If we live by faith, we should also live in peace because faith teaches that God loves us, each one of us in a personal way. Yes, individually.

Wake-up call

How difficult it is for souls to be convinced that God loves us. His love for us is not sterile. It is a love that is active, provident, watchful and solicitous. It is a love that never for a moment forgets us, that protects us without ceasing, disposing everything from the most important in the smallest and most insignificant detail.

Jesus Himself affirmed it: "Not a single hair of your head shall fall without the will of your Father." (Matt 10:29.)

God always draws good from evil. Our faults and sins humble us and make us realize our own nothingness.

After "Sutla," "Live Show" is, indeed, another wake-up call. When you touch base with your conscience, you realize that there is no more gray area and no room for rationalization. It is time to make a stand!

Are movies made to promote evil, glamorize obscenities and perversions of men and women in the name of profit or art? Do stories have to require performers to disrobe?

How many "Dyesebel" movies do we need to watch in a lifetime?

Is prostitution the only option to fight poverty? Never.

Is the film industry losing its sense of sin? Are film producers losing their sense of God? It is as if He never existed at all or doesn't play any role in our lives.

(The author, whose full name is Ma. Luisa Fatima R. Nebrida, is a screenwriter and television director and producer.)

NOT BEATING her breast about doing sexy roles "for art's sake," Rica Peralejo bares that she had to think a thousand times before finally doing her first sex scene.

Rica makes a clean breast of her big switch

THANKS to a Viva Films offer that she could not refuse, Rica Peralejo's long years of waiting for stardom are over at last.

With one fleeting display of her breasts in "Balahibong Pusa," the Joyce Jimenez starrer from Viva, Rica finally becomes a star.

Under her exclusive contract with Viva, Rica is guaranteed a maximum of 15 movies within three years plus extensive build-up by the company that expressed little interest in renewing Joyce's contract. Show business is a cruel world indeed. Hot today, gone tomorrow.

Today, as far as Viva bigwigs are concerned, belongs to Rica, a former member of the Star Circle.

The farthest that Rica went before she bared her breasts was when she exchanged passionate kisses with Victor Neri in the action flick "Ex-Con." In "Balahibong Pusa," she shocked viewers when, topless, she cavorted with Jay Manalo.

She also started people thinking: Are those breasts for real, or are they a product of modern science just like those of Rosanna Roces?

"I thought about it a thousand times because I knew it would affect not only me but also my family," Rica says of her big switch from sweet to sultry. "I thought of my friends. Would they respect my decision and keep our friendship? Most of the people who are close to me were understanding and supportive, especially my mom."

Her second bold flick, with the rather tame title of "Sa Huling Paghihintay," was directed by Erik Matti, the same director who started the bold-movie careers of Joyce and Sunshine Cruz. Her screen partner in "Paghihintatay" was fellow Talent Center member Bernard Palanca, whose career has yet to rise like hers. In one love scene, only butterflies covered their naked bodies.

Remy Umerez

Boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: Congratulations on your career! Ever since you decided to go bold, one after the other *ang mga pelikula mo*!

Sexy actress: Thank you. *Lagi nga ako nagpapasalamat sa Diyos* for all of these blessings in my movie career!

(Huh?!)

* * *

Quiz show host: Where can we find many US military officers—the White House, the Empire State Building or the Pentagon?

Contestant: The Empire State Building!

Host: Really? Why?

Contestant: Because *siyempre*, Empire *yon, Kaya nandoon sila*!

(Wrong!)

* * *

Host: What do you do to cover up the pockmarks on your face?

Guest: The make-up artists puts something in the holes in my face – corn sealer *ba yon*?

(Corn sealer?—Oh, concealer!)

* * *

Host: What animals do you like best?

Contestant: Pigeons!

Host: More than cats or dogs? Why?

Contestant: Because, pigeons, God created them, so they're also human!

(Duh . . .)

* * *

Host: What's the latest on the skirmishes down south?

Field reporter: Only two hours ago, rebels fried many rounds of mortar on troops in Zamboanga.

(Fried?—Oh, fired!)

* * *

Host: Can you take us around your beautiful resort, for the benefit of our camera and our many viewers?

Resort manager: With pleasure: Over here, that's our swimming and snorting area!

(*Ano daw*?)

* * *

Host: And now, for our show biz news. What's up?

Co-host: *Magandang balita ito* about (name of sexy star): *pinapabayaan na daw siya ng kanyang* manager in favor a newer discovery!

(*Magandang balita ba yon*?!)

* * *

Host: I hear, *sinigawan ka daw ng* director *ng* movie *na ginagawa mo ngayon*?

Starlet: High blood *talaga si Direk* . . .

Host: *Bakit hindi siya* happy *sa* acting *mo*?

Starlet: *Ewan ko nga ba*. I'm trying my hard *pa naman* to memorize my lines!

(*A, kaya pala* .)

'Saturday Unlimited'

EVERY Saturday at 7 p.m. this month on the National Geographic Channel, "Saturday Unlimited" presents unique adventure features. On April 14, jet off to Australia, Antarctica and the Cozet islands to take a closer look at penguins by way of "Penguin Baywatch," "Fairy penguin" and "Emperors of Antarctica."

On April 21, the focus is on lethal viruses and diseases in "Plagues: The Invisible Fire." In "Smallpox," we learn that the virus was used as a weapon of war thousands of years ago.

"Tuberculosis Timebomb" reveals a drug-resistant strain of the disease found in a major hospital. And "Ebola Riddle" zeroes in on deadly hemmorrhagic fever.

Finally, on April 28, all the features are on India. "India Diaries" ventures into the huge country's most mysterious regions. Elephants go out on the prowl at night in "Elephant Wars."

"Keeping the Faith" reveals the secrets of Indian wizards. "Unholy Mission" steeps viewers in the traditional culture and lifestyles of Meghalaya." In "The Final Frontier," join an expedition to the remote Yamne Valley.

And, in "Travels with My Eunuch," experience the harsh life of salt makers in Agaria, join in The Last Dance, and follow a touring folk-theater troupe.

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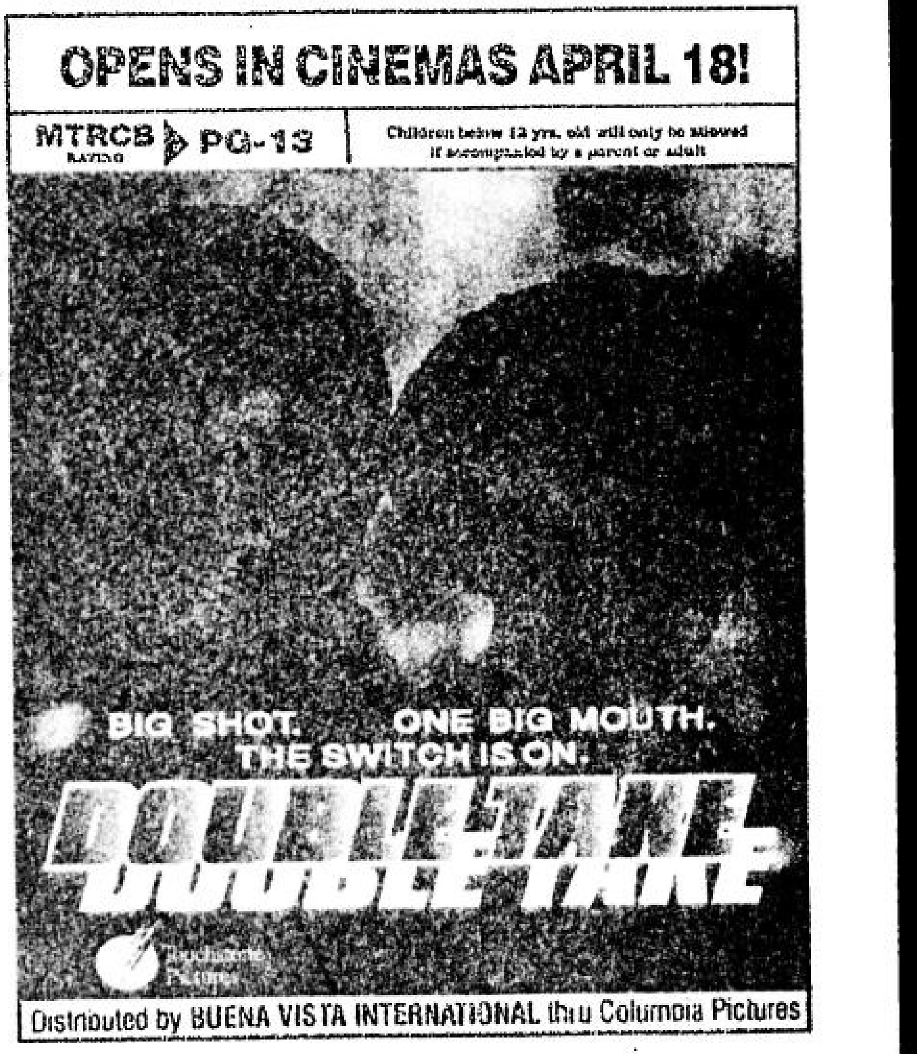
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
CROUCHING TIGER - P 13
11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9.30
CHOCOLAT - P 13
12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
ALMOST FAMOUS - R 18
12:35, 3:00, 5.25, 7:50, 10:15
SAVE THE LAST DANCE - P13



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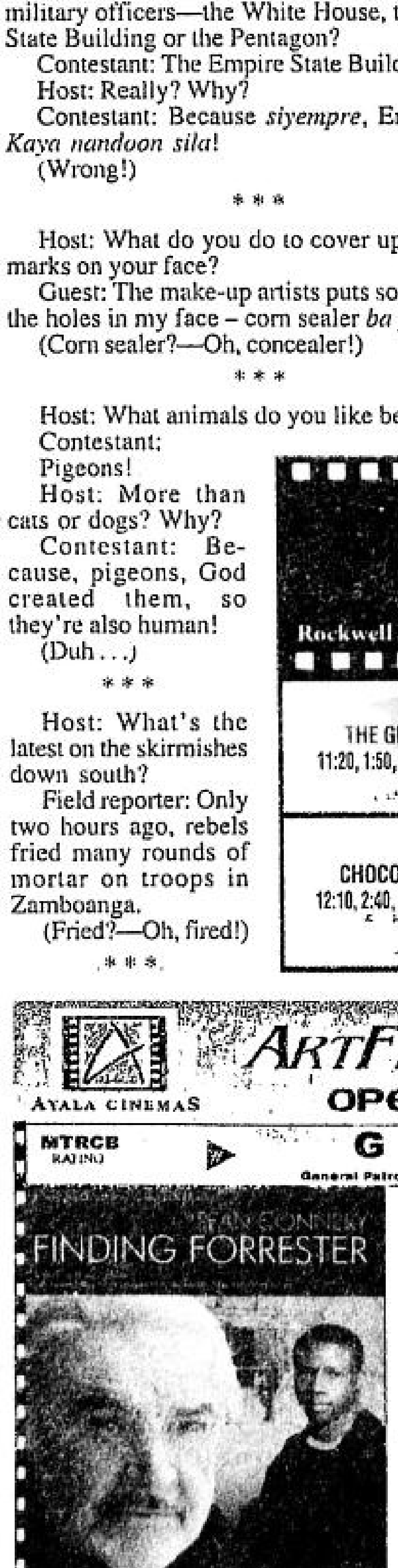

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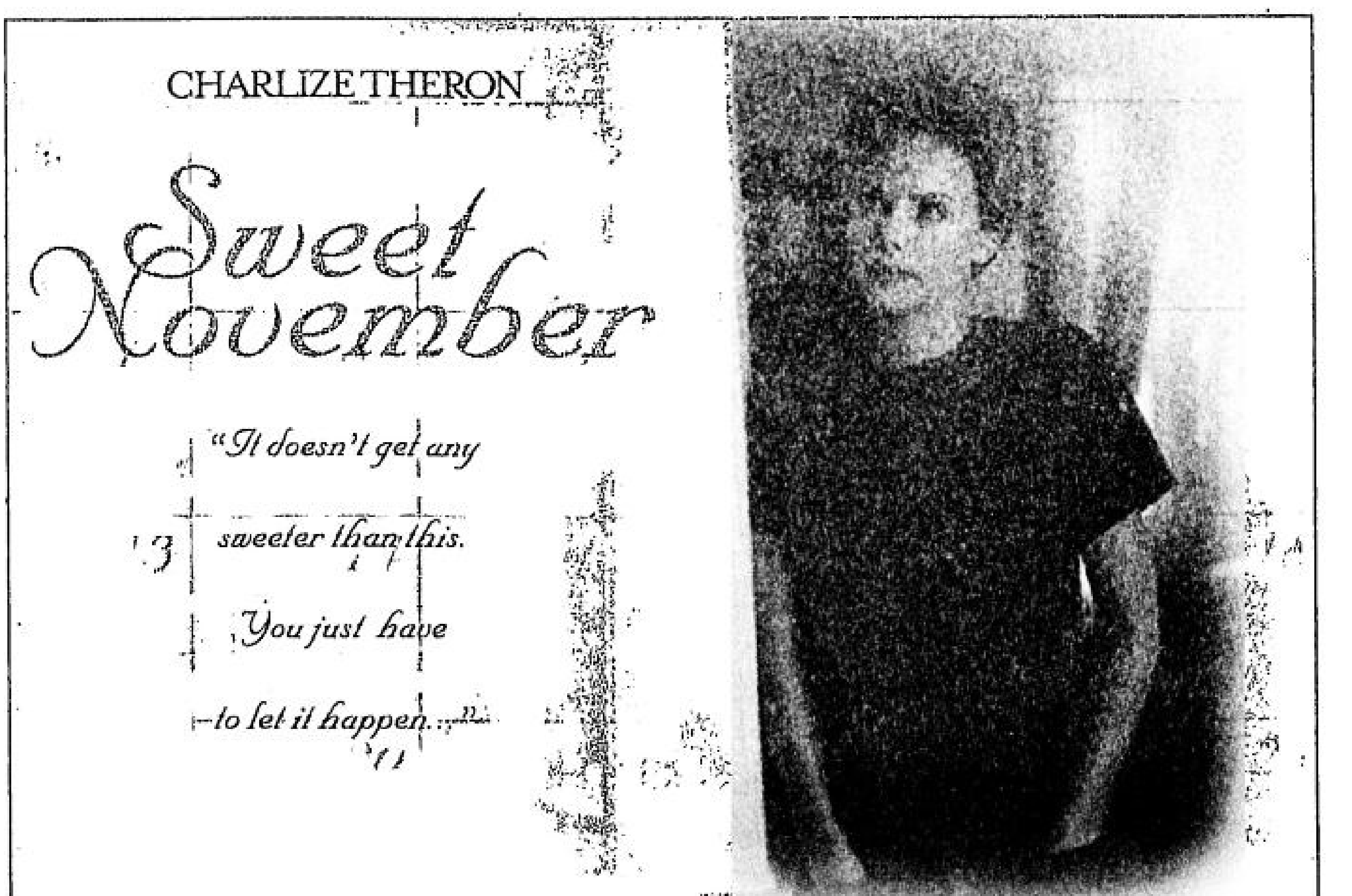

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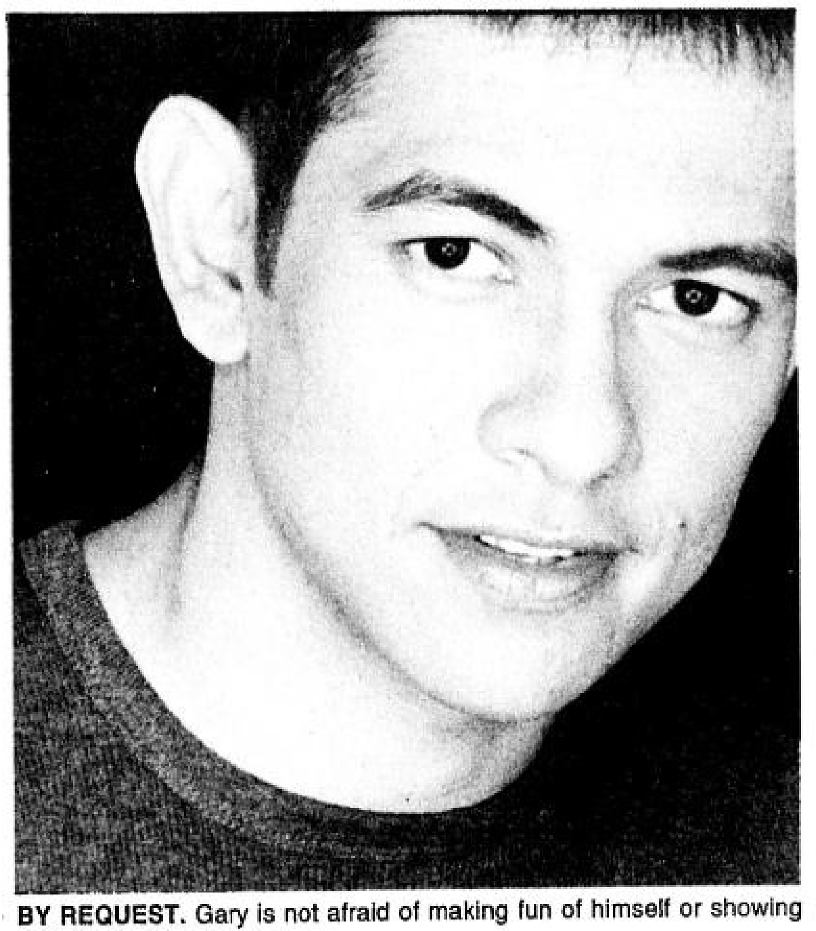

BY REQUEST. Gary is not afraid of making fun of himself or showing a different side.

Gary V grants your every wish

REVIEW

BY MARINEL R. CRUZ

LIKE the genie in Aladdin's lamp, Gary Valenciano granted the wishes of his audience one night last month. And he's doing it until April 21.

The idea is for Gary to sing all the songs requested by the audience in the 10-night weekend series called "Gary V: By Request 2" at Onstage in Greenbelt.

The requests are made through e-mail, snail mail, fax and text messages.

On the first night of the series in March, Gary started the show with a forceful performance of "Everybody Get Down." That early, the people in the audience were squirming in their seats, apparently wanting to get up and dance with him.

Gary took the crowd through various mood swings as he told stories of frustration, victory and renewed consciousness and associated each feeling with a song.

I was hoping he would sing Barry Manilow's "Somewhere Down the Road," which he said caused him disappointments early on in his career. What he did was even better. Not only did he sing the Manilow song, he also did a medley of other Manilow favorites — "Mandy," "Ready to Take a Chance Again," "The Old Songs" and others.

He then took the audience down memory lane with the swinging tunes of the Hotdog of the '70s — ``Annie Batungbakal," ``Bongga Ka 'Day," and ``Beh, Buti Nga."

He kept the audience pumped up with songs from the '80s like ``Buttercup" and his energetic — as usual — rendition of ``Something There to Remind Me." The crowd sang with him as he toyed with the electronic drums.

Gary also had them reminiscing when he sang the theme songs of his movies, "Natutulog Pa ang Diyos" and "Sana Maulit Muli" from "Ibulong Mo sa Diyos."

Excitement

A long-time Gary V fan, I simply couldn't contain my excitement at finally seeing him perform again. By the end of the second hour, I was on my feet, dancing along with the others as he performed a Latin medley that started with the Carlos Santana-Rob Thomas smash hit "Smooth."

By the time Gary was done singing "She Bangs" and dancing a la Ricky Martin, the women in the upper rows were already hoarse from screaming. These women also stood up, reached out to touch Gary, ran to the aisles to take pictures of him or to kiss him. I was afraid they would swoon when Gary sang current hits from boy bands Backstreet Boys, N'Sync, Westlife and 98 Degrees, which he said were not only widely requested but were his ``personal choices" as well.

Every Gary V show is also an enlightening experience. A video clip of singer Jamie Rivera introduced the song "Lead Me Lord," which ranks No. 7 in Gary's By Request chart. This was followed by Gary's heartwarming "The Warrior is a Child," the song that he said "best describes who Gary V is."

The show also seemed like a family event. I spotted Gary's wife Angeli Pangilinan-Valenciano sitting with their eight-year-old daughter Kiana. At times, mother and daughter would cheer and dance with the audience. Kiana also called out titles she wanted her father to sing, during the on-the-spot request segment in the second part of the show.

Gary V's eldest child Paolo appeared in a video introducing the song "More and More," a cut from the "Gary V: Interactive" album which earned Gary a best male performer nomination in the 2000 MTV awards.

US tour

Gary sang "I Will be Here" while a video screen showed parts of his successful US tour. The song, a Steven Curtis Chapman original, topped the By Request song list.

Upon the prodding of the audience, he did an impersonation of Martin Nievera and sang Martin's "You are My Song."

He was hilarious when he did Michael Jackson's hit single "You are not Alone" and danced like the singer to the tune of "Black or White."

In the middle of the show, the rough edge of a chair ripped Gary's pants while he was dancing. To keep the audience busy while he changed, he asked the audience to sing with the band while he went backstage. The audience obeyed.

Graciously, he even sang Jessa Zaragosa's "Bakit Pa," another audience request.

That night, Gary V was not afraid to be different and to make fun of himself. As usual, he had the audience under his spell.

Viva releases new inspirational album

VIVA Records recently launched "In His Time, Servant of All 2," the second in a series of inspirational albums.

Released in time for this year's Holy Week celebration, the album turned gold, with marked sales of 20,000 copies on its first day of release. It is expected to duplicate the quadruple sales performance of its predecessor.

Produced by well-known singer-actress and TV personality Jeanne Young, who also came up with the idea for the successful series, "In His Time, Servant of All 2" is a collection of songs, prayers and pieces for reflection that is ideally suited to today's stressful way of life.

Like the first one, "In His Time, Servant of All 2" was endorsed by Jaime Cardinal Sin.

The new album adopts a more pop approach to religious music with dance, rock and R&B sharing equal space with the usual inspirational ballads and gospel songs.

Some of today's most popular artists perform the 16 selections, including the title track, "In His Time" a Diana Ball composition recorded by Pops Fernandez.

The others are: "He Opens a Window" by Janno Gibbs; "God Will Make a Way" by Lloyd Umali; "Come, Now is the Time to Worship" by Carla Guevara; "Sumayaw, Sumigaw" by Ralion Alonso; "Hero" by Rannie Raymundo; "I Don't Know How to Love Him" by Rica Peralejo. "Hesus," by the rock band Alamid; "Heal Our Land" with John Lesaca on the violin; "Sa Kanya" by Zsa Zsa Padilla; "Panalangin Ko" by Jeremiah; "Ang Lahat ng Ito'y Para Sa 'yo" by Lani Misalucha; a cover of "I Turn to You" by Lance Raymundo; "I Believe" by Von Arroyo; "From a Distance" by Dulce; and "Celebrate, Jesus, Celebrate" by the trio of Moy Ortiz, Sweet Plantado and Annie Quintos.

TV and radio personality Eddie Mercado reads the moving "Footprints," while Brent Fernandez performs the Easter Message which closes the album.

Buyers of the album will get a bonus VCD featuring sights to see in the Holy Land.

Filmed by Felino Tañada, the "pilgrimage" was made possible by Catholic Travel with Philippine Airlines and El Al Israel Air Lines.

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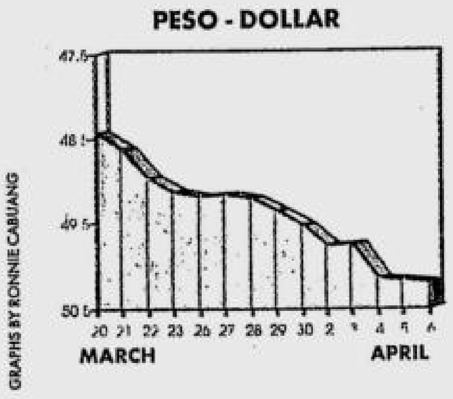
INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



Peso-Dollar Rate

₱50.20 = $1

As of 5 p.m., April 6, 2001

¥124.76 = $1

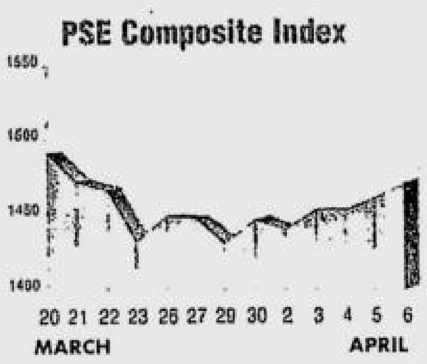
The US dollar was trading at 124.76 as of 5 p.m., April 9, 2001

GOLD:$261.00/261.50

per ounce Hong Kong, April 9, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Weak trading seen



(See stock market report on Page B2)

EQUITIES and financial markets were closed yesterday as the country marked the fall of Bataan during World War II.

Local stocks are expected to remain weak, with no strong local leads and a holiday-shortened trading week.

Analysts said developments in the United States would continue to drive the near term direction of the market.

Movements in the exchange rate were also expected to impact on equities over the next couple of weeks after the peso continued to weaken Friday.

Jan.-March investments down 80%

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

FOREIGN and local investments in new and existing companies in the Philippines dropped by a hefty 80.7 percent to P3.25 billion in the first quarter of the year from P16.84 billion in the same period last year.

Data from the Securities and Exchange Commission showed that foreign direct investments in new and existing corporations during the quarter shrunk by 75.7 percent to P906.69 million from P3.73 billion last year.

Equity infusion by Filipino investors in existing ventures contracted by a hefty 94.6 percent to P542.3 million, from P9.6 billion last year, while their investments in new companies declined by 48 percent to P1.8 billion from P3.49 billion in the same quarter last year.

Analysts attributed the slump in investments inflow to the cautious stance adopted by most investors due to domestic and global concerns such as the slowdown in the US and Japan economies.

They said the country has yet to reap the benefits of the perceived resurgence of investor confidence following the ouster of former President Joseph Estrada. Although the market hailed the peaceful change in the government last January, investors remained cautious in pouring in fresh money due to various concerns.

The expected economic recession in the US has dampened investment prospects in emerging economies that are highly dependent on US investors for capital and the US markets for their products.

Analysts said investors were still taking a closer look at the policy directions that the Macapagal administration is taking. During the first quarter, the much-publicized bickering within the military after the Edsa II Revolution as well as ousted President Estrada's claims that he was still the country's president worried most investors.

The SEC data showed that foreign direct investments infused into new and existing corporations benefited only 430 companies, down from 639 last year.

The bulk of the foreign direct investments that flowed into the country in the first quarter—amounting to P889 million—was infused as paid-up capital into newly registered corporations. Capital infusion in existing companies was minimal. Most of these companies have failed to meet profit expectations due to the difficult economic environment that started last year.

The paid-up capital contributed by foreigners for new companies in the first quarter was 40.8 percent lower than the figures during the same period last year.

The P2.69 billion in paid-up capital infused by foreign and local investors into new companies in the first quarter was the lowest in five years, the SEC data showed. It was 46 percent lower than the P4.99 billion and P9.16 billion in the first quarters of 2000 and 1999, respectively.

In 1996 or a year before the Asian currency turmoil erupted, the three-month direct investment infusion in new companies by both local and foreign investors hit a high of P19.98 billion before dropping to P17.22 billion in 1997 and further to P12.38 billion in 1998.

Based on the five-year trend, the sharpest fall was seen in 2000 when the BW Resources Corp. price manipulation scandal, the near closure of the Philippine Stock Exchange, the Mindanao hostage-taking crisis and other political worries triggered an exodus of investors and a massive capital flight.

Government officials are hoping that inflow of investments will start to pick up this year as the country begins reaping the benefits of the reforms being implemented by the Macapagal administration.

However, the latest Asia Recovery Report released by the Asian Development Bank's regional economic monitoring unit (Remu) said the slowdown in the global economy dimmed the export growth prospects of the Philippines and other countries that have just started recovering from the financial crisis of 1997.

Union dismisses Toyota pullout threat

BY RAUL C. DANCEL

STA. ROSA, Laguna—Striking workers of Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. dismissed yesterday as idle threats reports that the car assembler would shut down its operations in the Philippines if the ongoing labor dispute will not be resolved soon.

They said Japan's No. 1 automaker could not just pack up and walk out of one of its biggest markets in Asia.

"We believe it is a distant possibility that they will shut down their operations here. They have already invested so much money here. Now, they're suddenly talking about leaving. Where are they going to take all that money, their buildings and facilities?" Emilio Completo, spokesman of the Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. Workers Association, told the INQUIRER.

Completo stressed that the Philippines was a big market for automakers in Asia and that Toyota's withdrawal would simply allow other carmakers, notably those in the United States and Europe, to fill the void that Toyota would leave behind.

Toyota Motor Co., Japan's biggest and the world's No. 4 automaker, has invested over P8 billion in its assembly operations here, and has been selling the most number of vehicles in the country for decades. It currently controls around 30 percent of the Philippine auto market.

On Friday, a government source said Toyota threatened to pull out of the Philippines unless the government settles in its favor a labor strike that has hit its assembly plants here and in Sucat, Parañaque.

The source added that several Japanese companies would follow Toyota's lead should they perceive the administration as tolerant of labor activism.

"They shouldn't blame us. We went on strike because we didn't have any choice. They dismissed us without cause. What else can we do?"

UNION/ B3

The New 2.0 Liter Revo GSX.
Compromise Ignored.
Ambition Reached.
Gratification Experienced.
GSX
2.0 L EFI
GSX
GSX
TAMARAW FX
REVO
It's What Drives You.
Ever been smitten by a piece of metal?
If not, you're about to.
The new 2.0 liter Revo GSX. Strength and beauty. The next level.
From the striking multireflector headlamps to the hard-kicking power of its 2.0 liter EFI engine, the GSX is a machine designed for the express purpose of making your adrenaline levels go ballistic.
Ignore compromise, reach your ambition, experience gratification. Tne new 2.0 liter Revo GSX. The rush of driving for the heck of it.
Also available: SRJ and SR in 2.0 liter EFI gasoline engine.
GLX, GL and DLX in 1.8 liter EFI gasoline engine and 2.4 liter diesel engine.
I love this car.
TOYOTA
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Numbers don't like

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

THEY say numbers don't lie. If this is so, I say we cancel the elections next month, and we can even save hundreds of millions. Let all those surveys decide who among our multitude of candidates will take advantage of us in the next three years.

Really, what use are all those surveys to us, the tax-paying ignorant public, if we cannot even trust them to decide the final outcome of the elections? The sooner we know the winners, the sooner we leave everything behind us and start anew.

That means, even before you can say the word "plunder," we can already start preparation for the next elections by demolishing one another all over again. You know, that kind of being back to normal!

Here in the country's leading newspaper, ehem, our bosses unfortunately believe in the Fair Election Act. This is the law that, among others, provide that, at least during elections, reporters like me must try to refrain from being imbeciles.

* * *

TO make it a fair fight in media, our bosses issued us a legal advisory. My copy is already in the garbage. Imagine, it said that candidates have the right to reply to charges published against them! What kind of an election is this, anyway?

Moreover, a big part of the advisory deals with surveys, not the kind that talks of how much garbage is littered in the streets per square kilometer of Metro Manila, but election surveys.

The advisory says that reports on surveys must be accompanied by a lot of other pertinent data. These, as you know, are thought of as garbage in my line of work. There are always ways to misuse the numbers we don't actually like.

For instance, the advisory says we have to report the "specific questions used" in the survey. "Will you vote for this or that candidate?" is a straightforward question. It is not exactly the same as: "Will you vote for the husbands of Ate Vi and Ate Shawie?"

* * *

NOW, the camp of former PNP chief Panfilo Lacson claims that this cute administration of Gloriaetta is doing a "demolition job" on their candidate. But there is one, Virginia! All those noises in media against Lacson do not just signify nothing.

Based on solid evidence such as hearsay and speculation, for instance, the insinuation in media is that Lacson, who, not by coincidence, comes from Cavite, is being tagged as the mastermind in the killing of Andres Bonifacio by the Caviteños.

I thought that if the authorities really have the inside dope on Lacson, it will be wise for them to wait until after the elections to rattle all those skeletons in his water closet or whatever it is you keep such collections. Then, it is more believable.

For Lacson cannot claim, as he does now, that it is just all part of this cute administration's demolition job on him. I'm afraid people tend to believe him. Well, the man has more credibility than those three stooges doing the job on him—combined!

* * *

JUST take a look at the figures. According to a survey of the Social Weather Stations, the approval rating of Lacson stood at 73 percent in July last year. In that same month, the approval rating of the PNP reached its highest ever at 65 percent. Now try to beat that!

Based on those figures, a lot of people believed that Lacson was relatively clean as a policeman. Okay, so you ask how come. Precisely, it's because of what he did, as PNP chief, which ordinary people felt directly in their own lives.

There are policemen who say that Lacson was not liked in the PNP. He was hard on his own men. The guy dismissed more than 2,000 of them. Precisely, people look at it differently. He would not have the guts to clean up the force, if he was not clean himself.

For those who believe that only politicians lie, and that numbers don't, the SWS survey even showed that, during the time of Lacson, 60 percent of us felt it was finally safe to have policemen around. More of us no longer viewed cops as THE criminals.

* * *

TO me, being a son of a former policeman, that was Lacson's biggest contribution to the police force. Respect, man, respect! He gave back to the police the respect that they needed if they were to do their job. All the rest you can consider as a bonus.

His camp, you see, in reaction to the apparent "demolition job" on him, never fails nowadays to point at this thing called "track record." During his time, his camp says, the PNP broke some 11 syndicates in kidnapping, 20 in drugs and 17 in auto theft.

I also remember reports at that time saying that for the first time in many years, stolen cars recovered by the police were even given back to their owners, and the police did not even ask for . . . well, "reward money."

Admit it—Lacson was one good thing that happened in the time of the man named Band… Wrist Band. Criminality went down, which was the big problem when he was elected, which was probably why something like him was elected, in the first place.

* * *

IF I may recall my conversation with Edgardo Espiritu, the banker who became the first finance secretary of Wrist Band, one time I asked Espiritu why a respected man in the business community like him was supporting Wrist Band during the elections in 1998.

It was the crime rate, Espiritu told me. He thought we needed somebody like Wrist Band to solve the rising criminality at that time. Even at that time, Wrist Band already wanted Lacson to head the PNP because, to his mind, Lacson was not . . . well, "soft."

Today, if you believe the numbers, Lacson is not even among the top senatorial contenders. So why is this cute administration doing an obvious demolition job on him? Why not concentrate on sure winners like Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile or Noli de Castro?

Precisely, Lacson must not get a chinaman's chance to win because to this cute administration of Gloriaetta, he represents one of the few good things in the Wrist Band administration, and the lie remains that nothing good really came out of it.

Small depositors want a shot at rehabilitating Urban Bank

By CLARISSA S. BATINO

SMALL depositors of Urban Bank Inc. are seeking a shot at rehabilitating the shuttered bank and its investment unit if no "white knight" shows up on April 26.

In a letter to the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., the National Association of Urban Bank Inc. and Urbancorp Investments Inc. Depositors and Creditors, or Naud, offered to submit a rehabilitation plan 90 days from April 26.

The group represents small depositors with some P3.6 billion trapped in Urban Bank.

"We formally submit our position that there should be no new investor group or, should PDIC and the SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission) not find the rehabilitation plan submitted by any investor group viable, then we, the major stakeholders of the institutions, propose to lead the rehabilitation and reopening of UBI and UII," Naud said in its letter.

This group is separate from a consortium being formed by Urban Bank's three largest creditors: San Miguel Corp., which has P1.2 billion locked in; Petron Corp., P1 billion; and Manila Electric Co., P500 million.

PDIC president Norberto Nazareno has given interested parties until 7 p.m. on April 26 to submit a rehabilitation proposal for Urban Bank.

"On or before April 26, we would have announced a decision on what the best offer was or if there was no attractive offer at all. If Naud makes good on its word, then we could safely rule out a liquidation of Urban Bank," Nazareno told reporters.

Naud wants to avoid a liquidation of Urban Bank, which will take at least 11 years to complete.

Apart from a consortium being formed by Urban Bank's biggest creditors, three local banks and a US company have expressed interest in Urban Bank and its investment unit, Urbancorp Investments Corp., according to Nazareno. These are Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., International Exchange Bank, Robinson's Savings Bank and Newbridge Capital Inc.

Although burdened with debts and a lack of confidence among its depositors and investors, Urban Bank is still an attractive takeover target because of its 28 branches.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has prevented local banks from putting up new branches in line with its campaign to force a consolidation in the banking sector. Acquiring a bank as big as Urban Bank means an instant expansion for any buyer and an exemption from the central bank's moratorium on branch expansion.

PDIC decided to look for another buyer after Bank of Commerce dropped plans to merge with Urban Bank because of Urban Bank's legal problems.

Ten directors of Urban Bank Inc. have testified anew against their former chair and president, whom they accused of misleading them about the bank's true financial health.

IPP review to continue, says DOE

By RONNEL W. DOMINGO

THE GOVERNMENT has decided to go ahead with a review of National Power Corp.'s contracts with independent power producers.

Energy Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho told reporters they were going ahead with the review and "will start with the ones where we think improvements can be immediately achieved."

Camacho said earlier the review of the contracts was to be deferred pending the passage of the power industry restructuring bill.

He said the Department of Energy submitted suggestions to Congress bicameral conference committee regarding the need for a systematic review of the contracts.

For its part, Napocor have been pursuing the review of the contracts in a bid to lessen the cash strapped and debt-ridden power firm's losses.

As of end-2000, Napocor's cash deficit was estimated at P20 billion.

Napocor president Jesus Alcordo said the firm could save a lot of money if the review pushed through and if the results were as they hoped.

In an earlier interview, Alcordo estimated that Napocor could save about P7 billion from the renegotiation of these contracts.

At the end of last year, the state firm's contracts with independent power producers totaled $10 billion.

"There are some less difficult (cases) where we think we can do something earlier," Alcordo said.

He also said the review would not have repercussions on the independent power producers' creditors.

"We wouldn't want to do something that would make the creditors think we are abrogating the contracts," the Napocor chief said.

PLDT cuts interconnection charges

By ANTHONY O. ALCANTARA

THE PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. has decided to reduce interconnection charges with other fixed-line phone companies by 50 to 70 centavos a minute for domestic long distance calls.

PLDT first vice president for interconnection services Ramon Santiago said in an interview yesterday that there would only be a flat access charge of P1 a minute instead of the original revenue sharing scheme.

Under the original revenue sharing scheme, revenues from domestic long distance calls were divided among the originating carrier (30 percent), inter-exchange carrier (40 percent) and terminating carrier (30 percent).

"There will be a reduction of domestic long distance call rates by 50 to 70 centavos. However, we expect call traffic to increase because it's now cheaper," Santiago told reporters.

At present, domestic long distance calls for PLDT range from P3 to P6 a minute depending on the distance.

PLDT last week signed an agreement with the Philippine Association of Private Telephone Companies Inc. (Paptelco) setting a P1 access charge.

Under the agreement, charges for short-haul calls, or calls that originate and terminate within Luzon, Visayas or Mindanao, will be 50 centavos a minute, while those set for long-haul calls, or inter-island calls, is set at P1.25 a minute.

Santiago said PLDT agreed to set the same rates for fixed-line companies.

"We expect to sign separate agreements with the other carriers before the end of the month," he said.

The Philippine Telegraph & Telephone Co. has already agreed to this new access charge and will soon sign an agreement with PLDT.

Santiago said agreements with other carriers such as Globe Telecom Inc., Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc. and Bayan Telecommunications Inc. are also being finalized.

Last week, PLDT mobile phone subsidiary Smart Communications Inc. lowered interconnection charges with rural phone companies to help fixed-line companies in the provinces survive.

PLDT and Smart signed a revised revenue sharing scheme with Paptelco.

Under the agreement, the rural phone companies' revenue share from calls originating from their networks to Smart's cellular phone network would increase three-fold from P1.25 to P3.75 a minute.

"It would make the Paptelcos viable. Like with our international long distance rates, lower charges would mean higher call volumes that would compensate for the reduction in charges," said Smart legal head Rogelio Quevedo.

Jollibee to put up 50 new branches

By CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

JOLLIBEE Foods Corp. said yesterday it would put up more branches this year to make up for last year's disappointing expansion rate.

Jollibee purchasing manager Sammy Dalisay Jr. told the INQUIRER the country's No. 1 hamburger chain would put up 50 new branches this year.

"In year 2001, we believe we could bounce back and improve our branch expansion rate," he said.

Dalisay admitted that last year's political and economic uncertainties took their toll on Jollibee's expansion plans. The company was able to open only 24 Jollibee stores and two Greenwich Pizza outlets.

Dutch investment firm ING Barings shared Jollibee's optimism about a much-improved business climate this year.

"An improved economic environment because of the political changes and an additional boost from spending for the May elections point to a better 2001 for Jollibee. The acceleration in January sales may also end 2001 with good results," it said.

ING Barings said Jollibee should be able to put up 40 to 45 Jollibee stores, 30 to 35 Chowking stores and 15 to 20 Greenwich Pizza stores.

Jollibee's financial performance last year offered no major surprises.

The company reported a net income of P931 million, down 8.4 percent from 1999's P991 million. Revenues grew 19.2 percent year-on-year to P15.4 billion, boosted by the acquisition of Chowking.

ING Barings said the lack of earnings growth despite fairly strong sales indicated that overall operating costs intensified.

"The effect of the weak peso could have been worse if not for similar weakness in the Australian dollar, which Jollibee uses to source its beef requirements. So far, Jollibee has been able to raise prices of certain products by only 3 to 4 percent," ING Barings said.

The Dutch investment firm has a "buy" rating on Jollibee.

It said a return-on-equity of 15.4 percent was well above the market average, while earning growth should accelerate starting this year.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, April 6, 2001)

NAME	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4	805,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	3,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	69.5	69.5	69.5	69.5	127,800
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	16	16	16	16	3,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	51.5	51.5	49.5	49.5	8,400
Global Business Bank Inc.	80	80	80	80	875,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	215	215	210	211	150,030
Philippine National Bank	46	46.5	46	46	17,800
Security Bank Corp.	21	21	19	19.25	37,600
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.48	1.52	1.48	1.5	110,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1210	1210	1195	1195	1,520
Sun Life Financial Serv.	930	960	930	960	9,960
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	44	44	44	44	16,100
Diversified Fin. Network	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	2,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.5	0.51	0.49	0.49	3,190,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	655	655	655	655	2,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	10,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	10,000
Piltel	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	70,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	715	715	710	710	135,900
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.043	0.044	0.042	0.043	105,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	44	45	43	43.5	368,700
Manila Electric Co. B	59	60	58	58	1,775,800
Petron Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.68	1.68	1,548,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.96	0.92	0.96	80,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.16	1.16	1.12	1.12	1,499,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	500,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	530,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	110,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.25	12.25	12	12.25	7,082,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	30	30	30	30	190,000
RFM Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	280,000
San Miguel Corp. A	45	46.5	45	46.5	68,400
San Miguel Corp. B	50	52.5	50	51.5	655,300
Vitarich Corp.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.58	0.6	0.58	0.6	30,000
Ayala Corp.	7.4	7.7	7.4	7.6	2,496,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	2,937,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.25	12.75	12.25	12.5	4,600
A. Soriano Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	50,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	10,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	5,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	2.14	2.16	1.98	2	8,770,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	290,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.36	1,190,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.06	1.1	1.06	1.06	1,920,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	23	23.25	23	23.25	125,500
Global Equities Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.24	0.24	1,630,000
Ionics Inc.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	15,600
Ipeople Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	70,000
Ipeople Inc. B	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	90,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.1	2.12	2.1	2.1	4,682,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.71	0.71	420,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.49	540,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.48	0.48	450,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.31	1,030,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.25	0.27	680,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	5	5	5	5	3,000
Music Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	20,000
Pryce Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	310,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	150,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12	12.5	12	12.5	14,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	8,540,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.52	0.48	0.51	1,240,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	44.5	44.5	44	44	373,100
Ayala Corp. Pref.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	24,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	690	690	690	690	400
Jollibee Warrants	11.75	12	11.75	12	53,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	11,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
Waterfront Phils-Warrant	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.015	1,600,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.9	6	5.8	5.8	3,320,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	220,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	860,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	150,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.02	2.06	1.98	2	13,973,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	230,000
SM Development Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.1	7.2	7	7	13,353,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	400,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	100,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	200,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	130,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	37,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	2,500,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	200,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0044	0.0044	0.0042	0.0042	8,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	4,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.19	0.2	0.18	0.18	2,570,000
Pacifica	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	2,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.065	0.065	0.06	0.06	200,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	40,000
Vulcan Ind'l.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	100,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	2,149,610	128,782,900.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	184,429,800	440,035,025.00
PRO	32,626,000	142,612,000.00
Mining	39,930,000	641,250.00
OIL	17,110,000	610,600.00
GRAND TOTALS:	276,245,410	712,681,775.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	595.30	DOWN 3.39
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,988.16	UP 25.57
PRO	577.75	DOWN 2.47
Mining	1,090.40	DOWN 10.82
OIL	1.51	DOWN 0.03
All Shares Index	729.26	UP 6.89
Composite	1,471.13	UP 10.46

NO. OF ADVANCES: 39; NO. OF DECLINES: 23; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 36; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 98; NO. OF TRADES: 2,516

CURRENCIES

April 6, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency In US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.115698	1.000000	50.1820
Japan	Yen	0.008985	0.008053	0.4041
United Kingdom	Pound	1.593217	1.428000	71.6599
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143067	0.128231	6.4349
Switzerland	Franc	0.654560	0.586682	29.4409
Canada	Dollar	0.709190	0.635647	31.8980
Singapore	Dollar	0.617226	0.553220	27.7617
Australia	Dollar	0.545574	0.488998	24.5389
Bahrain	Dinar	2.959568	2.652661	133.1158
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.297487	0.266638	13.3804
Brunei	Dollar	0.613155	0.549571	27.5786
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000105	0.000094	0.0047
Thailand	Baht	0.024623	0.022070	1.1075
UAE	Dirham	0.303773	0.272272	13.6632
Korea	Won	0.000828	0.000742	0.0372
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.896300	44.9781
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.458271	22.9970
France	Franc	0.152450	0.136640	6.8569
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.406723	20.4102
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.065137	3.2687
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022219	1.1150
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000463	0.0232
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.150747	7.5648
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004471	0.2244
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005387	0.2703
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.022219	1.1150
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.138066	57.1104

Piracy issue vs RP seen driving away US investors

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE MACAPAGAL administration is worried that the continued vilification of the Philippines as a flourishing haven for software, movie, music and book pirates by an influential American lobby group would drive away American investors from the country and imperil the country's status as a preferred exporter to the US.

The International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA), a group of seven trade associations composed of 1,450 US copyright-based companies, has stepped up its lobbying with the US Trade Representative to move the Philippines from the ordinary to the priority watchlist of the world's worst violators of intellectual property rights (IPR).

In a statement, Philippine Intellectual Property Office Director General Emma Francisco said the IIPA move was a call on US businessmen to stay away from the country or for the US government to exclude the Philippines from Washington's general system of preference or GSP.

She said IIPA's move would jeopardize the duty-free access of certain Philippine products to the US which accounted for 10 percent or $821 million of the country's total exports last year.

The group made the same appeal last year, citing the Philippines' inability to stop the proliferation of bootlegged music and video CDs and software. However, the appeal was rejected by the USTR who retained the Philippines on the Ordinary Watchlist of the US Trade Act after it found the IIPA report of a worsening IPR violations in the country as "inaccurate."

Francisco said the IIPA has again denigrated the Philippines as a weak enforcer of IPR laws which violates its commitments to the World Trade Organization.

Francisco claimed that the companies that own the movies or music or software being bootlegged should blame no one but themselves for the piracy in the country because they have lost interest and did not persevere in pursuing cases against violators as they preferred to settle their cases out of court.

Francisco said the government was being used as one huge collecting agent for intellectual property owners that file cases but who abandon the same when they have reached settlement agreements with violators.

This explained why criminal cases involving IPR violations have been settled without the knowledge of prosecution and enforcement agencies who discover that a settlement has been made only when the complainants do not appear during the course of the investigation.

Francisco said the IIPA should take note of Microsoft's positive efforts to launch training programs for government personnel who were among the biggest users of unlicensed Word and Excel programs. She said IP owners should act on the situation in a constructive way rather than point an accusing finger at the host government.

Francisco lamented that the IIPA report was a distasteful attempt to turn the Philippine government's achievement against itself. While the IIPA has done very little or nothing at all to enforce its rights, she said the Philippines has set up the needed legal infrastructure through several bills aimed at protecting IPR. These include the enactment of the Intellectual Priority Rights Code of 1997 which was the main reason why the Philippines was slid down from priority to ordinary watchlist in 1997.

The IPO claimed that the country has in fact one of the lowest incidence of piracy in Asean and that the IIPA itself acknowledged that the bootlegged copies were coming from the country's neighbors such as Malaysia and Taiwan.

The IPO is actually asking the USTR to strike off the Philippines from the IPR watchlist of for its compliance to IPR rules and success in enforcement despite the limited government budget.

PLDT-GMA deal in final stage; awaits Congress OK

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) yesterday said its subsidiary's purchase of a majority stake in broadcasting firm GMA Network Inc. was in the final stages of due diligence exercise, but still needed congressional approval which may take another few months.

"They are into the formal and final phase already. The committees have met but as we have indicated earlier, the deal is still subject to regulatory approval," PLDT spokesman Ramon Isberto said.

PLDT, through its wholly owned Mediaquest Holdings Inc., had entered into a memorandum of understanding with GMA to buy a controlling 66.67-percent stake in the broadcasting firm for P8.5 billion.

PLDT officials have said the transfer of GMA's stake was likely sometime in the second half of the year as both companies must wait for congress to resume in June after May elections.

GMA president Felipe Gozon had said that even if the due diligence exercise was completed, they still had to secure congressional approval for the transfer of shares. Gozon has said it may take two to six months before Congress approves the transfer of shares.

The due diligence exercise includes initially the legal aspect of a deal.

"Then you look at the financial matters and technical audits. In this case, although there are a number of studies being done by GMA on how PLDT can help enhance the technical side of the local broadcasting firm, we need the expertise of a third party, which is a foreign strategic partner," Isberto said.

GMA and Mediaquest are currently in talks with five prospective foreign investors which they have not identified.

PLDT shares ended at P710 on Friday. The Philippine share market was closed on Monday for a public holiday. *Reuters*

NFA bids out imported rice

THE NATIONAL Food Authority auctioned off the other Friday more than 100,000 metric tons of rice it got as a commodity loan from the US generating bids ranging from P590 to P848 per bag.

The bids were accepted but they still have to be approved by the NFA administrator. The amount to be raised will be used to fund various government agriculture-related projects.

The shipment, according to a report quoting Coast Guard Commodore Luis Tuason Jr., was allegedly smuggled into the country and was seized inland in Batangas last week.

But the NFA said the rice shipment was legal and was not seized at all. It added that the rice was loaned to the Philippine government under US Public Law 480 which provides for its sale to raise funds for agricultural projects being pursued by the borrowing country.

The NFA also said it held all the documents for the shipment in its central office because the agreement with the US government required the immediate sale of the rice.

Bulk Handlers Inc., tasked to unload the rice and transport it to warehouses, also issued a statement denying the report.

Bulk Handlers owner Manuel Tan has been the subject of various news canards since he sued officials of the failed Westmont Investment Corp. (Wincorp) for making it appear in commercial documents that another company he owns had an outstanding loan with Wincorp when it had not.

Union dismisses . . .

(From page B1)

TMPCWA's Completo said in response to these statements.

"We don't want this anymore than the company does, but what good are our jobs if we are denied our basic rights? It's like giving up your right to live as a human being," he said.

TMPCWA went on strike on March 28 to protest the dismissal of over 220 workers on March 16. The union was fighting for recognition as a bargaining agent for rank-and-file employees when the dismissal occurred.

Former Labor Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma certified TMPCWA as a bargaining agent, a decision that the incumbent labor secretary, Patricia Sto. Tomas, affirmed. Toyota Philippines, however, has challenged the certification before the Court of Appeals.

TMPCWA president Ed Cubelo said in a statement that Toyota Philippines should have begun collective bargaining negotiations with the union despite the appeal, saying the labor secretary's order should have been final and executory. Instead, he said, the company dismissed most of the union's supporters who attended a rally before the labor department and hearings before the Bureau of Labor Relations on Feb. 22 and 23, citing abandonment of their posts.

"Obviously, what respondents did not achieve—that of preventing the formation of a union and its miserable failure to defeat it through the certification election—it now wants to ram in and have the union destroyed through brute force," Cubelo said.

The strike has paralyzed operations at Toyota Philippines' Laguna and Parañaque assembly plants. Since picketlines were set up on March 28, the company has been unable to roll any vehicles out of these plants, where it assembles its best-selling Corolla and Revo models.

The company said its supervisors and a few rank-and-file workers who did not join the strike were able to assemble a few units to meet orders from Vietnam, but that the union prevented these vehicles from leaving the factories.

Sources familiar with the situation said some of Toyota's dealerships had already run out of stock of the Revo Asian-utility vehicle because of the strike.

Completo said Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, who paid the striking workers a visit on Saturday, had assured the striking workers that she would try to work out a settlement of the dispute this week.

"She told us she'll do everything she can to resolve the problem. She also told us that President Macapagal-Arroyo has been calling her repeatedly and asking her to settle this as quickly as possible," Completo told the Inquirer.

The labor secretary can assume jurisdiction of the dispute, citing it as an issue of national interest, and order a status quo. This will require the union to dismantle its picketlines and return to work, and the company to take back all the workers it has dismissed while the National Labor Relations Commission works out a settlement.

The case, however, can drag on for years as any decision by the labor department can be challenged before the Supreme Court.

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Angelica U. Capao-an

is no longer connected or employed with Allied Banking Corporation. Information on "QUALIFIED THEFT" has been filed against her before the MTC, Cotabato docketed as Criminal Case Nos. 144-68 to 144-82. Warrants for her arrest have been issued. Any transaction entered into with her will not be honored by the Bank. For any information as to her whereabouts, please call the:

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YUPANGCO PAWNSHOP, INC. Pledges as of Sept. - Oct. will be auctioned at the ff. offices: Blk. 2-K 2nd Flr. Galleria Baclaran Taft Ave., PC-Apr. 17 '01-8:30AM; 200 Zapote Bacoor Cavite-Apr. 17 '01-2:00PM; Apt. 5 South Superhighway Alabang Muntinlupa MM-Apr. 24 '01 8:30AM J. Flor-Auctioneer

PERSONAL

Thank You Holy Spirt From Oda And Family

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.

This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle.

Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never been known to fail so be sure you really want what you ask.

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Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again.

2 Cor. 5:4-5

In Loving Memory
On the First Death Anniversary of

DR. CONSTANTE D. QUIRINO

(April 19, 1920 – April 10, 2000)

His family, relatives and friends are offering the following Masses on April 10, 2001 at the following churches:

Central Luzon Doctors' Hospital Chapel, Tarlac City	7:30 AM
San Sebastian Cathedral, Tarlac City	6:00 AM
Don Bosco Chapel, Tarlac City	6:30 AM
Our Lady of Ransom Parish Church, Matatalaib, Tarlac City	6:15 AM
San Sebastian Village Parish, San Sebastian Village, Tarlac City	6:30 AM
All Saints Parish, Logansport, Indiana, U.S.A.	8:00 AM
St. Ladislas Parish, Westlake, Ohio, U.S.A.	8:00 AM
Saint Paul's Parish, Richmond, BC, Canada	8:00 AM
All Saints Parish, Logansport, Indiana, U.S.A.	(April 19) 8:00 AM
Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Flanders, New Jersey, USA	(April 21) 8:00 AM

We request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course;
I have kept the faith."

2 Tim. 4:7

BIBIANO LORENZO OCAMPO REYNOSO II

August 10, 1933 -- April 7, 2001

His mother **PURA**; brothers and sisters **TESS, NORMA** and **RONNIE REYES, CARMELITA, BONG** and **HEDY, IMELDA, MINA, CORA** and **MELVIN, MALU, BIB, BOB** and **CATHY, PAPOT, TONET** and **BABY, BAE-BEE** and **GEE-GEE, RAMON, MAITA, GERBEE, LEONARD** and **MICHAEL**; nephews, nieces and grandchildren.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, April 11, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 10:00 a.m. Services.

In Loving Memory
on the
First Death Anniversary
of its
Former President and Chairman of the Board
and Medical Director

DR. CONSTANTE D. QUIRINO

who passed away on April 10, 2000

CENTRAL LUZON DOCTORS' HOSPITAL
and CLDH-EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

join his family, CLDH Board of Directors, Medical Staff, Employees, Faculty and Students in requesting the pious readers to remember him in their prayers.

CEFERINO S. TONGCO

January 13, 1913 -- April 8, 2001

of Baliuag, Bulacan and Quezon City

Peacefully joined his Creator on April 8, 2001 at the age of 88.

His bereaved wife **Fidela**; children **Ricardo** and **Susan**, **Consuelo** (†) and **Roger**, **Quintin** and **Letty**, **Helen** and **Henry**, **Lourdes** and **Willy**, **Rebecca** and **Edilberto**, **Eduardo** and **Tessie** and **Cesar** and **Ruth**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, sisters and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, 143 G. Araneta Avenue cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

PACITA ABAÑO ABLAN

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on April 8, 2001 at the age of 81.

Her remains lie in state
at Loyola Memorial Chapels,
Guadalupe, Makati City.
Interment will be on April 11, 2001
at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque,
after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Loyola
Memorial Chapel.

SOLEDAD SARTE TEE

April 3, 1919 – April 8, 2001

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord.

Her bereaved children **Reynold, Denise, Nancy, Morly, Henrietta, Wilmer, Walden, & Charlyn**; sons & daughters-in-law; grandchildren; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, along Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City on Sunday, April 15, 2001 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

JAIME PANGANIBAN FELIPE

of San Francisco Del Monte, Quezon City
son of **Gregorio M. Felipe, Jr.** of Malolos, Bulacan
and **Florencia P. Felipe** of San Fernando, Pampanga.

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on April 8, 2001 at the age of 47.

His bereaved wife **Zenaida M. Felipe**; children **Vincent Joseph, Cheska** and **Mari Flor**; brothers **Jorge, Juanito, Jovencio, Joselito, Jeremias**; and sister **Marita** and other relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains now lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, April 14, 2001 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 7:00 a.m. Mass.

BENSON S. BARITUA, SR.

Peacefully joined his Creator on April 6, 2001.

His bereaved wife **Lucia**; children and children-in-law **Christine** and **Dwight**, **Katherine** and **Ferdinand**, **Benson Jr.** and **Shirley**, **Kenneth**, **Jennifer** and **Jeffrey**, and **Paul**; grandchildren **Daryl**, **Daniel**, **Chriselle**, **Carl**, **Jan**, **Bryan**, **Adrian** and **JC**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Oro, Legaspi City. Daily services will be held at 8:00 PM.

Interment will be on April 12, 2001, 9:00 a.m. at the Chinese Cemetery, Daraga, Albay, after the 8:00 a.m. service by Rev. Jonny Ong at UEC of Legaspi City.

WENCESLAO A. LEAÑO, JR.

Peacefully joined his Creator on April 6, 2001at the age of 58.

His beloved wife **CHARRY**; children **MICHELE** and **SHERWIN, MICHAEL** and **MARLON** wish to announce that his remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. His remains will be transferred to St. Francis of Assisi Parish Church, Poblacion, Meycauayan, Bulacan on Tuesday noon, April 10, 2001.

Cremation will be on April 11, 2001 at Eternal Garden Memorial Park Crematorium after the 10 a.m. Mass.

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Message of Thanks
We, the family of the late

PROF. JOSEFINA T. MARIANO

Who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on March 30, 2001

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and Prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

JOSE E. ESLAO, SR.

Died in the Grace
of our Lord on April 8, 2001
at the age of 76.

His remains lie in state at
St. Peter Memorial Chapel.

Interment will be on
April 11, 2001; 2:00 p.m.
at Himlayang Pilipino.

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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

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sprojects@inquirer.com.ph

'Love Boat' royalty docks in Manila

A ROYALTY among luxury cruise ships, the Royal Princess visited Manila March 29 as part of her world cruise. She belongs to the Love Boat fleet of Princess Cruises, one of the pioneers of the modern-day cruise industry.

Royal Princess has a capacity for 1,200 passengers and currently employs among her international crew 220 Filipinos provided by Magsaysay Maritime Corporation.

Christened in 1984 by no less than Her Royal Highness Princess Diana, the Royal Princess has maintained her regal status in a fleet of sensational Princess cruise ships.

Princess Cruises began as a one-ship company operating cruises to the Mexican Riviera and Alaska in 1965. In 1974 Princess Cruises teamed up with London-based Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation (P&O), the world's oldest and largest shipping company.

By the end of 1975 Princess Cruises owned a fleet of some of the finest and most modern cruise ships in the world. Princess became the star of the long-running television series "The Love Boat,'' a moniker that today is still synonymous with the company. The show was recently revived as "The Love Boat: The Next Wave,'' with the 77,000-ton Grand Class ship Sun Princess as the star.

At present, 4,000 Filipinos, who have gone through careful screening and selection by Magsaysay Maritime Corporation and Princess, are proud to serve on board 10 ships of the fleet.

Since 1987 Filipinos who wanted to be the best in what they did embarked on fruitful careers with Princess Cruises and Magsaysay Maritime Corporation. From the lowest ranks, Filipinos have risen to senior and managerial positions such as executive chef, manager and supervisor in the galley, accommodation, food and beverage and general administration departments.

Referring to the Filipino crew's performance on board, Princess Cruises vice president-fleet personnel Steve Morton Smith says, "Behind a successful product is a good team to deliver it."

By 2004, Princess will introduce six new superships in the Grand Class as part of a $3.5-billion expansion. With it comes the opportunity to employ 7,000 Filipinos in the fleet. When this next phase of expansion is complete, Princess will have one of the most modern and most innovative fleets and will carry more than 1.5 million passengers annually.

INSPECTION OF TOPPLED TOWER
The National Power Corporation has been incurring revenue losses of about P3 million per day following the toppling by power thieves of one of its 500-kilovolt steel towers in Pakil, Laguna. Tower 26, which forms part of the Tayabas-San Jose transmission line, collapsed last March 10 after the culprits sawed off the line's aluminum conductors. Operatives of the Philippine National Police in Region IV have so far apprehended several suspects and recovered an estimated three tons of aluminum wires. Photo shows Cordell U. del Rosario, vice president for NPC's transmission company, inspecting the toppled tower as soldiers and NPC workers look on.

SHARP SIGNS CBA
Sharp (Phils.) Corporation president and general manager Shigeo Kashimi congratulates Sharp Employees Union (SEU)-Confederated Labor Unions of the Phils. (CLUP) president Geronimo C. Lomeda Sr., after the signing of the 2000-2005 collective bargaining agreement. Also at the signing were (from left) Jaime C. Custodio, Sharp VP and division GM for finance; Silverio F. Montalbo, Sharp VP and division GM for purchasing; Ernesto F. Rendon, Sharp VP and division GM for general affairs and personnel; Yuji Baba, Sharp EVP and group GM; Lawyer Sisenando Villa, CLUP legal counsel; Werner Lugo, CLUP EVP; and Carlito Ralistan, CLUP treasurer. Standing behind are the local officers of SEU-CLUP. Baba and Rendon successfully concluded the CBA after a month-long marathon negotiation with the SEU-CLUP.

SINGAPORE AIRLINES WELCOMES DELEGATES
The "Meeting and Incentives Mart and Dream Trip" is one of the most important Buyer Invitational Programs by the Department of Tourism, through the Philippine Convention and Visitors Corporation. Recently, Singapore Airlines flew in eight buyers from the United Kingdom escorted by Philippine Tourism attaché Bernadette Lazaro. In photo are (from left) Andrew Tan, station manager-Manila, Singapore Airlines; Bernadette Lazaro, Tourism attaché, Department of Tourism-London; Stephen Usher, managing director; House of Usher Ltd.; Vivian Freeman, secretary general, British Contact Lens Association; Susan Clough, director, Accord Conference Corporation; Lynda Brown, international business director, Venue Source Limited; John Barnes, director, Barnes and Sherwood Limited; Colin Scott, Colin Scott Development Foundation; Rakesh Mathur, director, Here and Now Association; and Charibel Cartagena, customer services agent, Singapore Airlines.

BITS & Clips

Librarians in Palawan

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Librarians and Information Specialists (PSLIS), Inc. will conduct a seminar-workshop on the emerging technologies on library and archival management at Hotel Fleuris, Lactao Street, Puerto Prinsesa City, Palawan, on April 16-18. For more information please call Lily at 929-2180, Lyn at 724-1994, or Joven at 527-3503.

Technolux test kitchen

TECHNOLUX Equipment and Supply Corp. recently launched the Technolux Test Kitchen at the company's headquarters in Makati. Open to the public, the test kitchen, held every first Tuesday of the month from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., aims to help entrepreneurs set up their own food business without paying franchise fees.

First THSA alumni homecoming

THE ALUMNI Association of Tiwi Hot Springs Academy (THSA) and Virgin of Carmel High School (VCHS) invites all alumni to participate in its first alumni homecoming in the new millennium on April 14 and 15 in Tiwi, Albay. For details, please call 243-6170 or telefax 243-6173 and look for Beth or Cecille during office hours.

Hechanova radio show new time sked

"MUSIC of My Favorite People,'' a one-hour radio show hosted by Chits Melchor Hechanova, has shifted from evening to 11:30 a.m. to 12 noon on 558 AM on Radio Mindanao Network. These months before election, Hechanova will feature well-known candidates in personal interviews on her show. On Easter Sunday, April 15, she features Fr. Basil Jayasuriya, chaplain of the St. Michael's Hospice.

Batangas reunion

CLASS 1951 of the Batangas High School will hold its Golden Jubilee Homecoming on April 21 at the Batangas (National) High School campus in Batangas City. After the 8 a.m. registration at the patio of the Basilica of the Immaculate Concepcion, there will be a Thanksgiving Mass, followed by a motorcade, a luncheon and a business meeting. For more information, call Cesar Panaligan at (043)723-4885 or 723-5606; Councilor Bayani Malaluan at (043)723-3958 or (0919)327-4293; Judge Ernesto Mercado at (043)723-6135; and Leona Esplanada at (043)727-1405. In Metro Manila, call lawyer Gregorio Ortega at 633-0509 or 818-2325; engineer Pedro Dimaunahan at 826-24321 and Abdon Buensalida at 522-1633.

Mayon reunion

ALL graduates of the Mayon Institute of Science and Technology (formerly Mayon High School) are invited to a grand alumni homecoming on April 14. All graduates are encouraged to pass this news on to their fellow alumnus.

IRS tax assistance

THE DEADLINE for filing US income tax returns is April 15. Up to April 12, a representative of the US Internal Revenue Service will be available at the US Embassy to answer questions about individual tax returns. The representative will be available in the morning by appointment, and in the afternoon on a first-come, first-served basis. To make an appointment, call 523-1001 ext. 2515.

UST CELEBRATES ENGINEERING WEEK
The University of Santo Tomas College of Engineering recently marked the college's Engineering Week 2001 last February. Among the highlights of the UST Engineering Week was the blessing and commissioning of a Globe Telecom cell site located right beside the UST College of Engineering building. Shown cutting the ceremonial ribbon to formally open the UST Engineering Week 2001 are (from left) UST College of Engineering Assistant Dean Ricardo Balog, Fr. Javier Gonzales and Dean Marilyn Mabini.

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INTERNET
ONE

INTERNET CARD LAUNCHED
INTERNET One, the prepaid Internet card, was recently launched in response to a clamor for better pre-paid Internet access. The advantage of instant Internet access without the hassles of registration and monthly bills is complemented by the low P5/hour rate. Users can also enjoy high-speed V-90 access. A limited promotional offer is available where users can get free P1,060 worth of access credits until August 31, 2001. Internet One cards, as the one shown above by a marketing representative, are available in P90, P190, P290, and P490 denominations at all 7-Eleven convenience stores, SM Department Stores and leading pre-paid card outlets in Metro Manila. For more details and dealership inquiries, call 9113975 or 9120680, or visit http://internet1.www.ph.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

CLASSIFIEDS

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation
Energy Center, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, M.M.
Tel. 893-1320 loc. 5115 Fax 815-4216

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION/ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites Contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as MEDIUM A in Electrical Works or General Building-Building and Industrial Plants to apply for pre-qualification/eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the project:

Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of the
LEYTE Rural Electrification Project
Stage 7, Schedule 2 (16 Barangays),
under Bid/Project No. EDC 01-052

The work calls for the supply of minor materials, labor, supervision, equipment, tools, consumables, and other services necessary to provide electric power supply to the 16 Barangays situated in the Towns of Bato, Baybay, Hilongos, and Matalom, Leyte.

The pre-qualification/eligibility forms may be secured from the Contracts Administration Group (c/o I.M. Corcuera) starting **April 10, 2001**, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Pesos (PHP100.00).

The pre-qualification/eligibility documents must be submitted to the Contracts Administration Group not later than 5:00 p.m. of **April 24, 2001**.

Bid documents shall be issued to eligible Contractors starting **May 9, 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (PHP1,000.00).

For purposes of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **May 23, 2001**, 8:30 a.m. at the Leopard Beach Resort, Hilongos, Leyte. Site Inspection to follow thereafter.

Sealed bids in three (3) sets shall be received by the Contracts Administration Group at the above address not later than 2:00 p.m. of **May 31, 2001** and then to be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder(s) whose bid(s) is(are) considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

(Sgd.) **NAZARIO C. VASQUEZ**
President

(PDI – April 10 & 12, 2001)

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
AD NO. PD 2001-20

Bidding Date : May 14, 2001 - 10:00 AM
Pre-Bid Conference : May 07, 2001 - 2:00 PM (Sampaguita Room)

Sch. I. SERVICE CONTRACTS FOR LABOR AND MATERIALS FOR PARCELLARY MAPPING SURVEY OF LIBMANAN - LUPI 69 KV TRANSMISSION LINE

Sch. II. SERVICE CONTRACTS FOR THE PARCELLARY MAPPING, RELOCATION AND SUBDIVISION SURVEY OF AFFECTED LOTS FOR LEYTE-BOHOL INTERCONNECTION PROJECT (STAGE-II)

Interested parties are invited to prequalify and to submit sealed bids on the above using TWO ENVELOPE SYSTEM to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Room, Ground Floor, Building 2, NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue corner Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Accreditation forms will be issued at the Accreditation and Bidding Support Services, Materials Management Department, Ground Floor, Building 2, NPC-OBC, Diliman, Quezon City, upon presentation of this advertisement clipping, payment of P50.00 which is non-refundable, submission of company's TIN and proof of listing at the telephone directory starting April 10, 2001. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished forms on April 20, 2001.

Bidding documents will be issued from April 27 to May 03, 2001 upon payment of P200.00 which is non-refundable, presentation of original Certificate of Accreditation and supplier's number (DCE) at the Accreditation and Bidding Support Services.

Issuance of accreditation forms and bidding documents mornings only, 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM. For inquiries please call no. 921-2574.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

PBAC - SERVICE CONTRACTS OF PARCELLARY
MAPPING AND INVESTIGATION SURVEY
FOR 69KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT
NPC-OBC (Head Office), Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI – Apr. 9 & 10, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL CONCILIATION AND MEDIATION BOARD
Department of Labor and Employment
Intramuros, Manila

29 March 2001

INVITATION TO BIDDER

The National Conciliation and Mediation Board (NCMB) invites all interested and accredited suppliers to pre-qualify and to submit sealed bid on May 10, 2001, 3:00 PM for the following equipment.

2u Proliant DL 380RC1 (Server)
1u UPS for Server
1u Laser Printer
8u Personal Computers
1u Line Printer
3u UPS for workstations

Pre-qualification requirements may be obtained at the Office of the PBAC Chairman, TSSD, NCMB, Ground Floor, DOLE Building, Intramuros, Manila from April 10-20, 2001.

Bidders bond is required equivalent to 2.5% of Bid in Cash/Manager's Check/GSIS Surety (original).

The NCMB have the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality or defects therein, or to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the government.

For inquiries, please contact the Financial and Management Division with telephone number 527-3423.

(Sgd.) **ELENITA F. CRUZ**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI – Apr. 8,9 & 10, 2001)

Visit us at our website www.jobmarketonline.com

Creba's battle cry: 'Pabahay at Kabuhayan'

By Charlie V. Gorayeb
National president, Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Association

IN STRIVING for direct party-list representation in the House of Representatives in the May 14 elections, the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Association (Creba) believes it is vital for the voters to know Creba's work and achievements in its field.

Creba, recognized for 27 years as the umbrella organization of the real estate and housing industry, considers itself a breed apart from other organizations—in its tradition of pursuing to the limit that which redounds to the greater interest of the greatest number.

Creba is involved not just in promoting and protecting the interest of the industry. But, more important, it continuously, selflessly works to ensure that the industry serves as an effective tool in alleviating the plight of the homeless millions and plays its vital role in economic development.

Thus, since its founding in 1973, Creba has been a major partner of the government in formulating laws, policies, programs and rules. All these have not only benefited the shelter industry and the economy as a whole, but also advanced the welfare of the homeless.

At the same time, Creba has remained steadfast in pursing its objectives. In numerous instances, the chamber has been vocal, when the exigencies so demand, against acts by any public official or agency that would harm or defeat its pro-public goals.

Creba may cite instances of its major achievements as a matter of public record, in working for the passage of the following legislation or government action:

- Creation of the National Housing Authority as a result of Creba's proposal to centralize housing regulation under the national government.
- Construction of water mains throughout Metro Manila in 1975, as a result of representations with the MWSS to respond to the needs of a burgeoning urban population.
- Imposition of the idle land tax, a Creba-proposed measure to curb land speculation, despite strong opposition by Creba's landowner members.
- Creation of the landmark Subdivision and Condominium Buyers Protective Decree (PD 937) in 1976, which became the basis for standardization and regulation of subdivision and housing development for the benefit and protection of homebuyers.
- Creation of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) under Executive Order 648 in 1980, as a result of Creba's proposal to spin off the regulatory powers of the NHA and enable the latter to concentrate on government housing production.
- Establishment of the Pag-Ibig Fund as a result of Creba's call for a savings/fund pooling scheme of employee-employer contributions, to generate funds exclusively for housing purposes.
- Establishment of the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. (NHMFC) in 1980, as a result of Creba's proposal for a system that will encourage the flow of funds from the secondary capital markets into housing.
- Enactment of two landmark social housing legislation—the Social Housing Act (Batas Pambansa Blg. 220) in response to Creba's proposal to liberalize PD 957's stringent standards in order to allow for development of low-cost and socialized housing, and the Urban Development and Housing Act (RA 7279) which, imposed on developers a 20-percent Social Housing Quota, and provided for more incentives for social housing development.
- Institution of the Social Housing Program of the Cory C. Aquino administration under then HUDCC chair, now Rep. Herminio Aquino and later HUDCC chair Teodoro Katigbak, resulting from the collaborative work of Creba and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council.
- Establishment of the Social Housing One-Stop Processing Center (SHOPC) under Executive Order No. 184, for which Creba donated the use of its building and facilities.
- Enactment of the Comprehensive and Integrated Shelter Finance Act (RA 7835) which incorporated some of Creba's proposed funding measures for housing.
- Include house-and-lot packages worth below P1 million among those to be exempted under the Expanded Value-Added Tax.

LOGISTICS CENTER OPENS

Transnational Diversified Group president and chief operations officer Arthur P. Tugade and chair and CEO Jose Roberto Delgado, tour the facilities of the Logistics Center with special guest NEC Logistics president Junichi Shiomi during the inauguration of the first phase of TDG's investments in logistics services. Located on the Airport Access Road in Parañaque City, the 1,000-sq. m. Logistics Center serves as an ideal transit and storage facility for TDG clients in electronics, automotive, computer, apparel and consumer products sectors.

Puyat Steel unveils breakthrough product

ONCE, not so long ago, the galvanizing industry became almost always quiet because of the conventionalities regarding steel treatment. And as they say: "The old ways must go." Then, finally came a wake-up call from Puyat Steel. Zinc plus aluminum plus the N.O.F. equals Apo Galfan, a breakthrough in galvanizing. This shall again set the trend in the galvanizing industry as Puyat Steel Corp. has been well known for its innate pioneering spirit.

It has only been two weeks old in the market and there has already been an outpouring support for Apo Galfan. "Truly a phenomenon!" exclaimed PSC president Aristeo G. Puyat to the numerous media people who covered the said product launch at the World Trade Center.

During the product forum sponsored by Puyat Steel, engineer Emigdio Altafoglia, a guest speaker from CMI (Cockerill Mechanical Industries) thoroughly went into the details of this breakthrough. Said Altafoglia: "Since Apo Galfan is a combination of zinc and aluminum, its composition gives the steel the lowest melting temperature that could offer the following benefits: superior corrosion resistance, best formability, excellent paintability and superior weldability."

He even cited the two kinds of protection that Apo Galfan offers: "Aluminum corrodes slowly than zinc so it gives better passive protection. The higher the zinc composition, on one hand, gives Apo Galfan better sacrificial protection."

The forum was well-attended because Puyat Steel's valued clients and specifiers were there to give their support.

Trade Secretary Mar Roxas, who represented President Macapagal-Arroyo, cut the ribbon for the Puyat booth. He was assisted by Worldbex founding chair Joseph Ang.

PSC chair Edgardo P. Reyes said Apo Galfan was able to pass all tests to prove its formability because of the hot-dipped coating. The tests were carried out according to the Ecca Test Method No. T 7.

Since Apo Galfan is a binary alloy, it performs the highest adhesion and gives the steel better resistance to paint crazing, edge creep, blistering and corrosion. Apo Galfan-coated products have a strong substrate for paint adhesion and other pretreatments.

ROXAS (right) is being briefed by Reyes on the various applications of Apo Galfan during the product launch at the World Trade Center.

NGOs make available P1.12B in home loans for urban poor

NONGOVERNMENTAL organizations (NGOs) accredited as loan conduits of low-interest-bearing group loans to homeowners' associations of informal sellers have assisted in on-lending a total of P1.12 billion in loans under the government's Community Mortgage Program.

Secretary Michael T. Defensor, presidential housing adviser and chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, reported that these NGOs have facilitated the grant of over 51 percent of total CMP loans released as of last year by the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp., an HUDCC attached agency implementing the CMP loan window.

Accredited NGOs are composed of people's organizations and other civil society groups involved in community organizing and urban poor housing-related services.

Citing the NGOs' role in providing housing loan assistance to the informal sector, Defensor said NGOs have made the informal settlers, belonging to lowest income population, a bankable sector for housing, through the NHMFC's Community Mortgage Program.

A major component of the priority housing agenda of President Macapagal-Arroyo, CMP is part of the overall initiative to assure the security of tenure of homeless informal settlers undertaken in close coordination with concerned government agencies and with the support of civil society groups, Defensor said.

Manila Japanese School opens at Global City

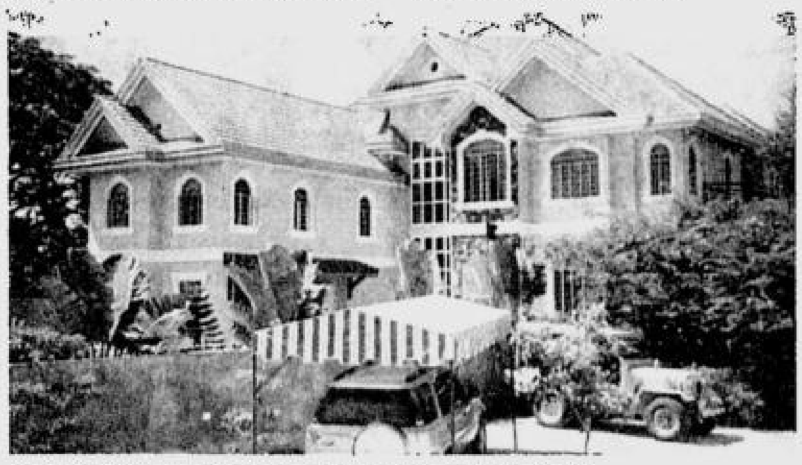
THE MANILA Japanese School at the Bonifacio Global City will open on April 16. It is an exclusive coed school for the Japanese community and has been operating in the Philippines for the past 32 years

The Manila Japanese School's main branch in Parañaque has been serving the Japanese community for over 22 years, while the Taft Avenue branch has been operational for over 10 years.

At the Bonifacio Global City, the Manila Japanese School is leasing a 4-hectare property from state-owned corporation, the Bases Conversion Development Authority, on a 25 plus 2 years term. The school building has a total floor area of 14,200 sq. m.

Sports facilities for its students that have been built in the compound include a gym (basketball court), a closed gym that will house another basketball court and volleyball courts, two swimming pools, lawn tennis, a football field as well as a track and field oval.

The Manila Japanese School caters to Japanese students at the elementary and high school levels.



BEST ROOF FOR PAMPANGA'S BEST

The owners of the famous tocino and longaniza stores made the best choice in roofing for their new home. Happy with their previous house, they used anew the durable, elegant, Filipino-made and patented Tegula roofing tiles—long proven fit for local sunny, stormy weather and tested to withstand volcanic ashfall. Tegula tiles and Vazpave concrete pavers are now on summer sale at all manufacturer's outlets nationwide.

Delta introduces global faucet line

THE NO. 1 faucet brand in the United States, Delta Faucet Co., recently launched its new expanded Delta Project Line at the Heritage Hotel. The New Delta Project is a faucet line that answers the needs of the global market.

The event served as the global debut of the newest style options of the popular Delta Project Line. Present during the launch were the Delta Faucet international executives—Kurt Buckland from the US head office; Elaine Wan, Sam Yang, and Michael Wong from Delta Faucet China; Edwin Deuna, general manager for Asia Pacific; and Billy Francisco, national sales manager of Delta Faucet Philippines. Key distributors and the media were given a preview of the two new models—the Single Hole Lavatory and the On-Wall Bath/Shower Mixer of the Delta Project Line.

For years, Delta Faucet has been the forerunner of the faucet industry ever since its founder, Alex Manoogian, perfected the single-handle faucet back in 1954. This molded Delta's destiny as a visionary in its aim to develop technological advancements that will revolutionize the faucet industry and improve its consumers' way of living. Already a US leader in their field, Delta Faucet views the development of the international market as an important growth strategy and thus, has led them to set their sights on creating top-of-the-line faucets that will suit the preferences of the global consumer.

This newfound objective drove Delta to expand the Delta Project Line, which has strong appeal to the European and American markets Recognizing the distinctive preferences of the Asian consumer, Delta Faucet conducted a market research in key Asian cities to help evaluate the needs of the eastern market. The results have led them to the creation of two new models under the Delta Project Line.

The latest Delta Project Line faucets were made to meet the standards of the Asian market. These faucets combine the advantages of American faucet technology such as a 35mm ceramic valve system that prevents drips and leaks and a solid brass body and the conveniences of single-hole and on-wall mounting for easy installation. Its distinctive design is defined by simple and classic lines that make it suitable to the traditional or modern bathrooms of residential and commercial installations.

Crown Asia gears up with 360-degree Club

CROWN Asia, the county's leading middle-income property developer, has initiated a program aimed at propelling further its distinction of providing total satisfaction for its clientele.

Crown Asia chief executive officer Marcelino C. Mendoza said, "The program, which we have called 'The 360-degree Club,' aims to find ways and means to further enhance our efficiency and productivity and provide utmost satisfaction to our homebuyers.

"Proud as we are of our effective system of operations, we believe in finding new approaches that would mean an extreme and full turnaround in our efficiency and productivity—a 360-degree spin toward improvement," Mendoza said.

To bolster participation of the entire Crown Asia family—including employees, contractors and the sales network—"Crown Asia enhanced the program to a contest that will recognize exceptional individual and group efforts to reach respective goals," Mendoza said.

The three different segments of the program—the sales network, employees and contractors—feature various activities and goals designed to improve efficiency and productivity to provide greater benefits for homebuyers.

For the different Crown Asia departments, one goal is improving the "customer lifeline" or point of contact with the client, which means even more convenient operations that address concerns of the home buyer such as site appreciation, amortization, move-in and after-sales service.

The property consultants of the sales network have the "Mr. & Ms Crown Asia Image" and "Best in Customer Service" contests to highlight personnel who best embody the ideals of the company.

The contractors, on the other hand, initiated "Tapat Ko, Linis Ko" and "Operation 3M (Maganda, Makinis at Mabilis)" that aim not only to ensure on-site cleanliness during house construction but also further improve the quality of the houses being built and their completion at the shortest possible time.

Winners of the "The 360-degree Club" will be awarded today coinciding with the first quarter awards for top brokers and contractors. Overnight trips to Corregidor await the winners.

Jollibee develops world-class facility in Calabarzon

JOLLIBEE Foods Corp., the country's leading fast-food chain, is developing in the Calabarzon area a modern manufacturing center, which will be the main plant to service its network of stores in Luzon.

Projected to cost P1 billion, the commissary will rise on a 10-hectare area in the economic zone and is designed to become a modern industrial plant using key concepts in world-class infrastructure suitable for a food manufacturing facility.

The commissary will be Jollibee's third and the biggest among its existing plants. The, Pasig City commissary is currently handling the supplies for the whole of Luzon while the Cebu facility continues to service Visayas and Mindanao.

"'The building will use pre-engineered structural steel that is ideal for food manufacturing and storage, and will feature highly efficient automation and technology-driven support services," according to architect Benny Dizon, head of Jollibee's Engineering.

JOLLIBEE Foods EVP and COO Ernesto Tan Mantiong, Engineering head Benny Dizon, VP for Commissary Belen Rillo, president and CEO Tony Tan Caktiong, Greenwich GM Raffy de La Rosa and the Jollibee mascot, lower the Jollibee time capsule at the new commissary's groundbreaking ceremony.

Ease of maintenance, hygiene and sanitation are given prime consideration in the choice of the structure's layout and design, as well as building materials to be used—factors which are extremely vital for a food manufacturing plant.

Structural support systems are also put in place to maintain a safe environment for warehousing, such as a clean-in-place system, which will be installed wherever applicable, and controlled airflow to prevent soil, dust and other contaminants from getting into work areas.

Since humidity is one of the most common concerns of workers in an ordinary manufacturing plant, ventilation systems in the new commissary are designed to provide the required number of air exchanges for a comfortable work environment.

Metal detectors and other control indicators will be installed all around the facility to ensure consistent product quality and safety.

REAL ESTATE

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Majestic RP architecture captured in churches

FEAST your eyes on the holy edifices this Lenten season. *"Visita iglesia"* (church visits) on Maundy Thursday is not just for the purpose of spiritual reflection but also a walk in time, revisiting our rich history and paying tribute to the builders of places of worship.

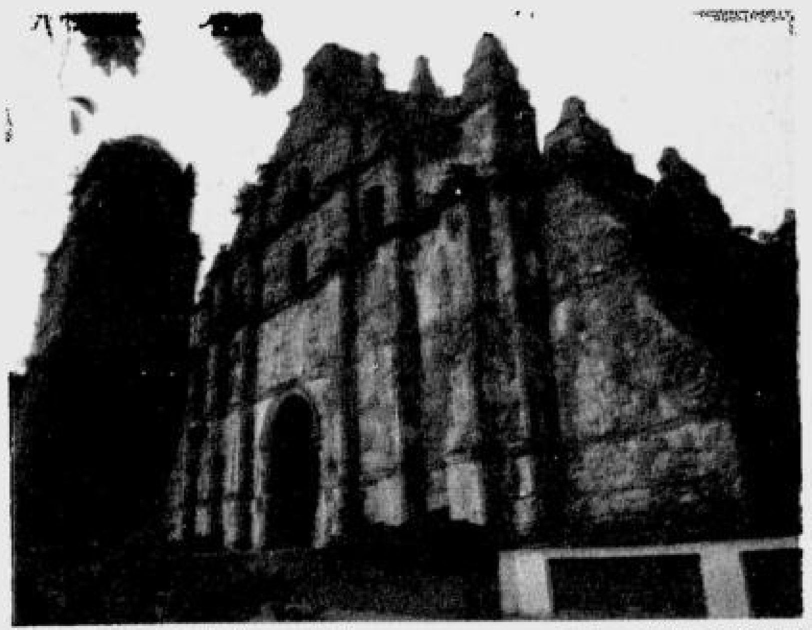
Lent becomes a showcase of the greatest Philippine constructions ever built. It is also a season when one of the most eye-catching styles, particularly colonial-inspired, in the architectural field collaborate in the building of our old churches.

Colonial architecture

For some designers, no other style matches the colonial. Most modern architects and writers doing analyses of Philippine churches marvel at the majestic structures of those designed and built during the Spanish regime. Roger Gaspar of the School of Architecture at the University of Hawaii, for instance, had an opportunity to study such structures when he visited the country on a travel research scholarship. His article (www.2.hawaii.edu/~gaspar/churches.html) cited that in 1899, when the last of the Spanish fleet left the Philippines, they left behind hundreds of brick and stone churches throughout the country.

"In architecture, the most distinct witness of the Spanish presence in the country are the churches built all over the archipelago," he said.

In his commentary regarding the flowering of the colonial church architecture in the country which he said was a significant event in the history of the Philippines, Gaspar mentioned that Filipinos' spontaneous and inventive attitude "created a kind of architecture that was unique from Western architectural idioms."



PAOAY Church in Ilocos Norte serves as a reminder of the builders' struggle with earthquakes.

Limited finances

Gaspar cited that early church builders had to contend with the limited finances and materials of the missionary. At the same time, these builders had to construct churches that could survive the frequent earthquakes and typhoons. Thus, the massive buttresses of the church such as Ilocos Norte's Paoay Church was a reminder of the builders' struggle with earthquakes. Gaspar said the Paoay Church became the epitome of earthquake-resistant churches.

"The Great Churches of the Philippines" by Pedro Gallende and Rene Javellana also took note of these buttresses. They cited how historians had given special attention to the step-like buttresses found in Ilocos churches like Paoay or Magsingal. The authors wonder, however, if these buttresses were also placed so workers could do periodic restoration job.

Gaspar also noted the Morong Church in Rizal for its integration of the belfry with the old façade. He said this had created one of the most well-composed architectures in colonial Philippines. Galende and Javellana also noted this feature in their book. Historical accounts tell of an indio master named Bartolome Palatino deciding to dig a deep foundation and integrate the bell tower with the façade because of the lack of space at the church façade. The result? "Tightly organized masses and a well-conceived piece," describe Galende and Javellana. *Tessa R. Salazar*

Developers meet April 25

THE SUBDIVISION and Housing Developers Association has invited Manuel C. Crisostomo, the new president and chief executive officer of the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig Fund) to address its business meeting on April 25, starting at 12:30 p.m. at the Manila Room of the Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City.

The SHDA is the country's prime national organization of private subdivision and housing developers.

Mariano D. Martinez Jr., SHDA national president, said Crisostomo is expected to discuss Pag-Ibig Fund's key role in the implementation of President Macapagal-Arroyo's priority agenda for shelter, with focus on homebuyers' financing for Pag-Ibig Fund members.

SHDA members, who are the main producer-suppliers of low-cost housing being acquired through Pag-Ibig housing loan financing, are interested in new developments in implementing the Pag-Ibig loan take-out window using the developer contract-to-sell schemes, as well as on alternative scheme of mortgage financing that Pag-Ibig Fund offers to developers.

Restructuring image of hospitals, health care facilities

FOR MOST people, hospitals will remain transitory places for "buying" cure, and any sign of upgrading facilities will only mean higher bills.

The creation of this mind-set is precisely the reason architects and health experts have forged a pact that will change the way people view hospital and health care facilities. The main thrust is to affirm the role of these institutions as not just passive venues to heal the sick, but as part of the entire healing process as well.

Architect Prosperidad Luis, national president of the United Architects of the Philippines, believes that the design of hospitals and health care facilities is a very strong component insofar as healing is concerned.

Says Luis: "If a medical facility is properly designed, it has a psychological effect on the patient. A facility is, in fact, an aid in the healing process." She explains that the current trend in design puts the hospital in active partnership with doctors in healing the sick. In fact, architects and health professionals have gone a step further by increasing venues for discussing how health care facilities can be further improved.

One such venue is the 21st International Public Health Seminar, which will be held in the country on May 10-13 at the Manila Hotel. Globally recognized for the numerous merits it has provided the architecture and health sectors over the years, the IPHS will again be a meeting of minds of architects and health professionals from various countries worldwide that will transcend the boundaries created by cultural, social, political and economic factors.

This year's IPHS is expected to create an avenue for an extensive exchange of ideas and practical experiences in programming, planning, building operation and maintenance of health and hospital care. "The main thrust is for it to be the voice of architecture in health all over the world, to make sure that the design of health care facilities is dynamically updated and standards are raised for both developing and developed countries," says Luis.

With the theme "Toward a Global Perspective: Learning From Each Other About Health Facilities Provision," this is the first time that the seminar will be held in this part of the globe. The three-day seminar will include lectures, paper presentations, work, researches and product exhibits, small group workshops and rapporteur's reports that will all lead to a plenary session to formulate the seminar manifesto.

The IPHS is organized by the UAP in partnership with the Union Internationale des Architectes-Public Health Group and backed by internationally recognized institutions such as the World Health Organization, Philippine Department of Health, International Hospital Federation, Union Internationale des Architectes Region IV and Architects Regional Council Asia.

Registration is from April 1 to May 9. For inquiries, call up the UAP secretariat at 551-4233, 551-4329, 511-4350, 551-4351 or 832-1120 local 09.

GROUNDBREAKING RITE

Eduardo Tirona (center), president of Orchard Property Marketing Corp., the exclusive marketing subsidiary of Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Inc., led the groundbreaking ceremony held during the grand launch of Sotogrande Residential Estates in Tagaytay City. With him are OPMC director for finance Antonio Robles, right; Tagaytay City Mayor Francis Tolentino, left; and the OPMC area sales directors and division vice presidents.

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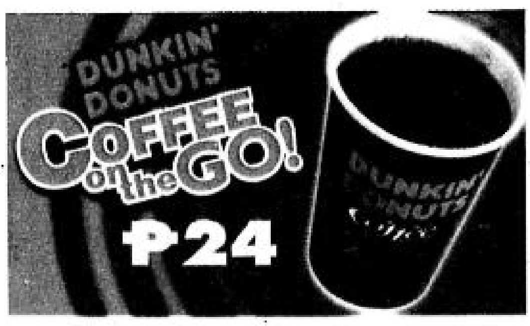

DUNKIN' DONUTS COFFEE on the GO! ₱24

Three vs six meals a day

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

ACCORDING to the Tufts University Health and Nutrition Letter, researchers have found that people in their 50s and 60s burn less fat from big meals than younger people. The scientists compared a group of women in their 20s with a group of post-menopausal women. Both groups were given three meals consisting of 250, 500 and 1,000 calories. They found that the older women burned as much fat as the younger women when they ate the 250- and 500-calorie meals but they burned 30 percent less fat when they ate the 1,000-calorie meal. The researchers could not explain why the older women were burning less fat when they ate larger meals but they felt that this difference in fat burning could partly explain why people put on weight faster when they got older. Even though more research is needed to confirm this, it is not a bad idea for older people to eat smaller meals more frequently rather than two or three big ones to control their weight.

Some nutritionists and weight-loss experts believe that eating six small meals a day is good advice for anyone who wants to lose weight, regardless of age. The rationale behind this is based on the "thermic effect" of food. Simply put, there is an increase in body temperature whenever you eat. This means that the body burns calories to digest the food you have eaten. So the more frequently you eat, the more calories you burn. It makes sense then to spread out your calories into five or six meals rather than bunch them up into two or three meals so that you can take advantage of the thermic effect of food.

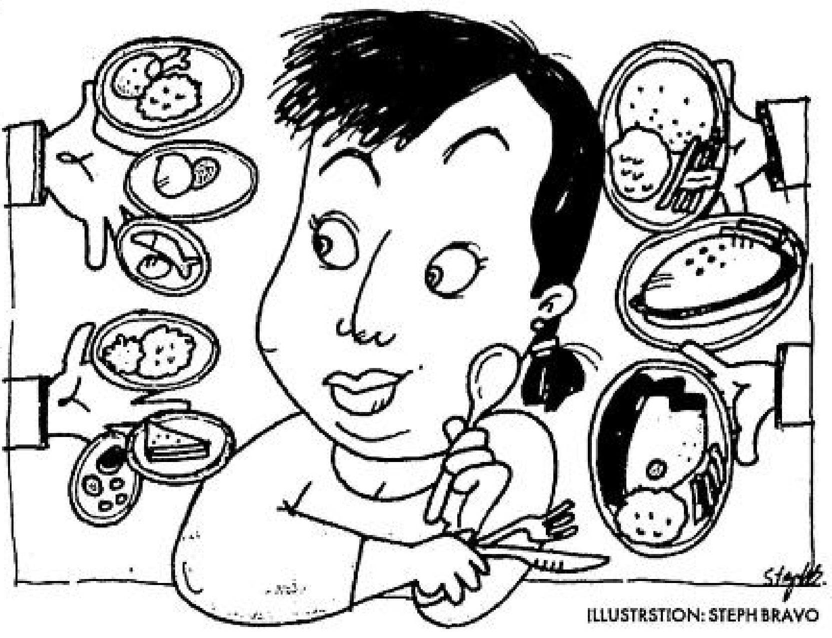
However, this advice does not always work for everyone and, in fact, can even be the very reason why some people can't lose weight. You see, we all respond differently to food and hunger. Just as there are many ways of exercising, there are also many ways of eating. You have to choose which one is right for your personality and psychological make-up. Here are two examples to explain that more fully.

Too little or too much

I used to have a client who was so afraid of feeling full that she never ate a regular-sized meal. She equated a full stomach with getting fat. She believed that if she ate small quantities of food at a time, she wouldn't gain weight. She thought she could control her weight by "grazing" through the day. However, this style of eating was actually one of the reasons she was overweight. To begin with, she was not eating six small nutritious meals a day but was snacking almost every hour on food that was easy to carry and eat with her fingers—mainly things like bread and dry cereal that are high in processed flour and sugar. She thought these were "safe" foods because they had almost zero fat, but no fat doesn't necessar-

THREE/ p.C4

> The more frequently you eat, the more calories you burn; it makes sense to spread out your calories into several meals rather than bunch them up into a few meals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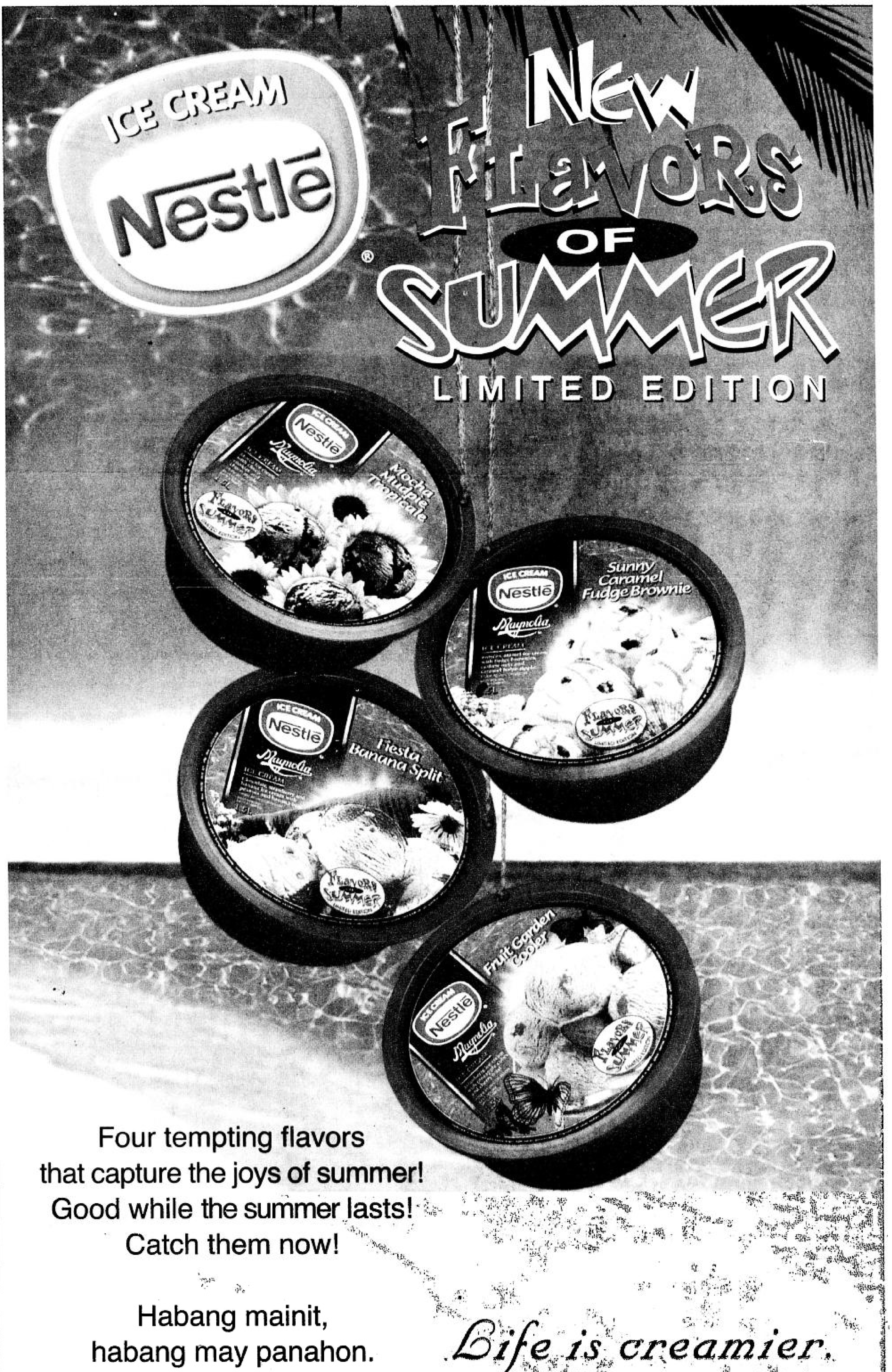

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ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

Planning is as important as the trip itself

VACATION, at last! You've been anticipating this all year—daydreaming about it through the stormy seasons, pining for it during the Holidays, fantasizing about it during Valentine's. Now, a few days away from leaving town, your bags are ready, your vacation leave has been filed (rather hurriedly) at the office, and you've described the beauty and splendor of that great beachfront up in the North to your wife and kids all year. And the best thing about it is, you're going there by land. Wonderful!

You'll be driving away from the congested city. You'll be passing through historical landmarks, natural wonders, stopping by exotic roadside shops. Yup, you've planned your trip seamlessly, all right. But have you really got your trip planned out?

Here are some useful tips for you, your car and your family before you embark on that great annual summer getaway. The trip may be as worthwhile as the destination, so enjoy!

- Have your car inspected and serviced and see to it that you have good tires. There's nothing that can ruin a good time faster than car trouble, and a car that runs well uses less gas.
- Several days before leaving, start making and putting extra ice in plastic bags, enough to fill your cooler generously.
- Cook a roast or chicken to use for sandwiches for meals on the road. Have it sliced and packaged, ready to go, and make sandwiches for at least the first meal on the road.
- Plan on taking a thermos or two (or three) with you, filled with coffee, hot chocolate, water or juice; anything you normally drink. (Not carbonated drinks, though.) It's inexpensive to get a thermos filled at many small restaurants fuel service stations—much less so than buying individual drinks. (Don't forget extra cups.)
- Stock up on snack foods you usually use at home. These are usually priced higher at unfamiliar grocery or convenience stores.
- Do shop at grocery stores and fuel service stations for some of your meals when you can't take enough in a cooler. Many of them have delis with complete meals available for less than restaurant or specialty store prices, but you can put together your own meal, too. Crackers or bread, cheese, salami or summer sausage, fresh vegetables and fruit, and something to drink makes lunch on the go pretty inexpensive. Be sure to pack a knife, can opener and wet wipes in a handy place.
- Pack a special bag with books, writing paper and pens, games or puzzles, and maps. It's fun to see where you are in relation to what, and if you have children, they'll enjoy tracing your route. So, bring maps and arm the kids (and yourself) with colored pencils. *Aries B. Espinosa, with additional references from www.about.com's guide on driving on vacation*

Traveling with kids

ON LONG trips, children can become many things for their parents. Unfortunately, not all these can be for everyone's good. On one end, children can be a constant source of wonder, keeping the parents wide awake and smiling throughout the trip. Well, for most of the trip. On the other end, these squirmy, impatient little tykes can become a source of irritation and distraction—elements that definitely have no place in the driver's seat.

What do you do if you have a bunch of wide-awake kids aching to do something – anything – in the backseat and you've still got a full day's driving ahead? Well, read on. But don't read this while driving.

- When packing your bags into the trunk of the car, place your kids' suitcases on top. They are much more inclined to need something out of their bags than you do, so having them within easy reach will make life easier for all.
- Let the kids know when you'll be making the next rest stop. Most kids will find it easier to cope with the tedium of travel if they know a break is coming. If your children can tell time, let them do this for you.
- To make their car ride as comfortable as possible, use car shades to keep the sun out of their eyes. Sunglasses will work too if your child will wear them. Take sunscreen and a hat as well.
- Wake any sleepers about ten minutes before you plan to stop so they can reenter the world with a minimum of grogginess (this will allow them time to get their shoes back on as well)
- Fast food restaurants in fuel service stations equipped with playgrounds are also a great idea. Children can channel their energies during stops in these areas after eating. When they come back to the car and resume the trip, you'll find them soon sleeping like babies again.
- Don't forget the snacks. Excellent snack choices include pretzels, raisins, crackers, string cheese, dry cereal, fruit, carrots and celery. An idea to make them more interesting is to put them in special decorated bags to peak your child's interest. Dried fruits such as raisins, apples, papaya, bananas, and pears won't bruise or spoil on long trips. Along with the snacks, don't forget the water bottles, of course.
- There are many travel games you can play with your children, and travel times can be a wonderful opportunity for teaching and helping children explore the world. Point out interesting sights or concepts such as fast, slow, over, and under. One of the most common games is the "counting game." One child can be assigned to count the number of red cars you pass by, for example, and another child is tasked to count all blue cars. The one who can count more gets a prize. (Be ready with a prize, though)
- For kids to fall asleep, stroke their heads and play soft music. With the motion of the car, these should do the trick. Prop little kids' heads up with pillows in the car seat. Pack enough pillows and blankets for everyone.
- To combat motion sickness, or if you forgot to bring the Bonamine, experts suggest eating lemon drops, lemon cookies, or peppermint; also, try foods high in carbohydrates and salt-covered foods such as crackers or pretzels, which cut down the production of that which causes nausea. Don't allow kids to read while the car is in motion.
- Don't forget to bring the little things: a first-aid kit, thermometer, adhesive bandages, pain relievers, insect repellent, and antibiotic ointment. Don't forget the toilet paper. And, yes, your cellular phones can be your lifesaver.
- To avoid burns from hot car seats exposed to the summer sun, take along a sheet or towel to place over the car seat.

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Sugarland launches new Magnolia Ice Tee

SUGARLAND Beverage Corporation (SBC) has recently launched its newest product to quench the thirst of motorists and passengers alike on long out-of-town trips--the instant lemon iced tea mix under the brand "Magnolia Ice Tee." SBC, the country's leader in powdered beverages, expressed confidence on the brand due to positive results from massive consumer surveys conducted prior to the launch.

Magnolia Ice Tee has a unique lemony ice tea goodness derived from its exclusive natural lemon juice crystals and has 100 percent dietary allowance of vitamin C. SBC also revealed that aside from the product's excellent quality, its comparatively more affordable prices for its 250g, 500g and 750g refill packs make Magnolia Ice Tee a highly potential best seller and preferred consumer brand.

According to feedback from SBC's distributors and its partners in business from supermarket chains, Magnolia Ice Tee could be the most important new player in the growing powdered beverage category this year.

The brand was formally unveiled recently at Edsa Shangri-La by (from left) Vincent Concio, SBC head of sales and marketing; Francisco Eizmendi Jr., SMC president; Aurora Calderon, SMC consultant; Charlynne Barretto, Magnolia Ice Tee model; Enrique Gomez Jr., LTDI president and Pacifico Castaneda, LTDI VP and SBC operations manager.

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PETRON LAKBAY ALALAY 2001 SPONSOR

Petron's annual Holy Week motorist public service assistance project—Lakbay Alalay, gets an energy boost from Lipovitan, the leading energy drink. Free Lipovitan can be enjoyed at Petron Lakbay Alalay service points located at the North and South Luzon Tollways. Seen during the contract signing are (from left) Noel Gonzales, Petron sales development manager; Filemon Antiporta, Petron retail trade sales director; Aaron Matti, Lipovitan marketing manager; Henry Azul, Petron C-Store coordinator and Jerico Perez, Petron C-Store executive.

Lakbay Alalay assists motorists this Holy Week

THE KEY to a successful vacation is careful planning. Decisions have to be made on where to go, how to get there, and what to bring. If getting there requires you to bring your own vehicle, the next step is to ensure that your car will get you there safely.

This Holy Week, people going on vacation north or south of Manila are once again assured of hassle-free travel on the expressways because of Petron Corporation's annual Lakbay Alalay. Now on its 15th year, Petron, with the assistance of Philippine National Construction Corporation (PNCC), will be extending various types of roadside services and fun activities at selected Petron stations.

Today, you can have your car checked for free at participating Petron stations.

On April 11, 12, 14, and 15, the Petron-PNCC Lakbay Alalay 2001 volunteer teams will be on the road to assist all Holy Week travelers. Check out the Petron Lakbay Alalay service camps at Sta. Rita and San Simon on the North Luzon Tollway, at Silangan in the South Luzon Tollway, and the Kisad and Harrison service stations in Baguio City.

There will be free medical/first aid/ambulance assistance, communication facilities, potable water supplies and restroom facilities, aside from the regular automotive technical assistance and trouble-shooting from roving and in-station teams. Towing services are free. Basic spare parts, motor fuels, and motor oils can be bought at retail prices. Petron's partner radio stations will also air live transmissions of latest traffic reports to guide motorists.

Helping Petron and the PNCC make Lakbay Alalay 2001 possible are Lipton Ice Tea, Lipovitan, Outlast Battery, Rainforest Mineral Water, Prokids Baby Diapers, Philippine Motorist Association (PMA) and the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC).

Petron also recommends the following travel and car care tips for a worry-free vacation.

- Go to any Petron station and have your car checked a day or two before the trip so necessary repairs can be made.
- Make sure to pack a first-aid kit. Have a paper bag and a bottle of ammonia ready for any passenger who may suffer from motion sickness due to the long journey.
- Bring an early warning device in case you have to make an emergency stop. Parking by the road side can be a hazard.
- Make sure you have enough gas in your tank. Fill up with Petron Blaze or XCS Plus Valvemaster for an additional mileage of at least 18 km per full tank.
- Store potable water in the car. The long trip and heat can dehydrate you.
- Always bring a spare tire to save you from the inconvenience of looking for a vulcanizing shop in case of a flat tire.
- Be alert and be wary of accident-causing situations on the road.
- Obey all traffic laws, signs and signals.

DOTC assists airport passengers

The Department of Transportation and Communications, in cooperation with the Manila International Airport Authority, the Air Transportation Office, the Civil Aeronautics Board and the PNP-Aviation Security Group, has recently launched its passenger assistance program in time for the expected transit of millions of Filipinos at the NAIA to their provinces during the Lenten season.

In the DOTC's "Oplan Mahal na Araw: Oks na Oks sa Airport" passenger assistance drive, all passengers are requested to arrive at NAIA three hours before their departure time. Early passenger arrival is the start of a safe, orderly, and efficient transit at NAIA.

DOTC's passenger assistance center also provides information/flight schedules, police assistance and emergency medical services at the NAIA.

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MFD: 11 April 2001
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On April 11, 12, 14 and 15 enjoy free professional car troubleshooting, battery check-up, medical assistance and ambulance services, cellular phone service, clean restrooms, free drinking water, radiator water, basic spare parts at retail prices, free towing service to the nearest Petron Service Station, free transport of passengers of distressed vehicles, and other information services. Courtesy of Petron employees and their partners who volunteer their time to ensure you have a safe trip this Holy Week.

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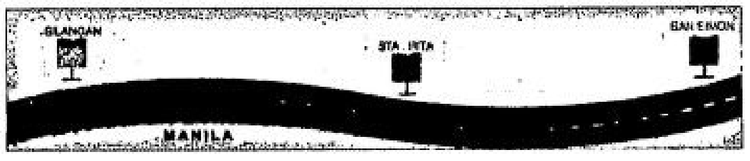


Healing power of Lent

By Jose Bulalacao

THE LENTEN season is always an occasion for us Christians to renew our commitment to God and to improve our relationship with Him and our fellowmen. It helps us become aware of our responsibilities and natural sufferings as we examine our conscience.

As we realize the truth about our life in this world, we become ready to live a life for the glory of God. Such insight makes us feel well, healthy and happy.

As a physician and a general practitioner, I have observed year after year that during this season, there are fewer patients who come for medical consultations and less emergencies like stroke, heart attack, accidents and other medical and surgical emergencies in contrast to the Christmas season. This means that Lent prevents diseases or ailments and many should have been healed. My colleagues must have observed that also. So, if Christians, whatever their professions or occupations are, will only live daily guided by God's will and by emulating Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life, in dealing with others, there will be more healthy, productive and happy people in our midst.

For the health and salvation of all, I urge my fellow physicians to practice a holistic approach in dealing with patients and not just to diagnose and treat illnesses with drugs and the like but to know also their underlying causes and with empathy, to counsel them on how to avoid the causes in order for them not to get sick again. Our profession is a client-counselor relationship and we should counsel and remind patients about personal care of their moral, spiritual, social and mental life whenever necessary and not just to counsel them on the physical or biological aspect of diseases.

For example, a 46-year-old, separated strike victim, treated with drugs and physical therapy by a doctor, has chest pains and a blood pressure of 150/100, requested me to certify for him an SSS disability claim for his health maintenance. After a dialogue with him, I understood the whole situation and advised him to reunite with his wife and children with the help of a priest or a marriage counselor. Enlightened and enthusiastic to follow my advice, he looked well and joyful. Before he left my clinic, I took his blood pressure again and it went down to 130/90.

Counseling is much better treatment and prevention of many diseases than the use of drugs alone and/or surgery. Man can be beset with physical, mental and spiritual illnesses which can be interrelated. Two or all three can be present in one patient as causes and effects of one or the other illness. Hence, a lifestyle change, by living in accordance with God's plan and His will for mankind, is indispensable at times for a complete healing of a sick person because God knows best what is good for us. With the many health, moral and social problems in our country today, it is high time that everyone take the road back to God.

Many people have discovered the truth about the healing power of repentance, self-denial and fasting, faith, love and justice, forgiveness, peace and reconciliation. All these must be practiced not only during the Lenten season but every day of our life. They help much more than anything else in our quest for wellness and longevity, for peace and progress, for joy and happiness here and now in our pilgrimage to God's Kingdom.

Get your child into sports

NOW that summer is here, what can your child do with all that energy fresh out of school?

The Milo Summer Sports Clinics are ideal for channeling your kid's boundless energy and time into picking up.

Sports are a healthy and constructive pastime for a child because all aspects of his or her development are addressed. Active interaction among participants and instructors helps build values like discipline, sportsmanship and camaraderie.

This year's 15 clinics are basketball, volleyball, swimming, football, taekwondo, squash, lawn tennis, chess, badminton, gymnastics, table tennis, karatedo, golf, ice skating and bowling. The clinics teach the basics of each sports through a unique and scientific method.

A mini-tournament will be held at the end of the training program. Enrolment for each clinic is ongoing. The Milo Summer Sports Clinics will continue until the end of May.

One of the most popular clinics is the Milo Best Center for basketball. The Milo Best Center is the first of its kind in the country. Founded in 1978, it has since become the benchmark for basketball training clinics in the Philippines.

The clinics are staffed by coaches and instructors with extensive experience in the sports they teach.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

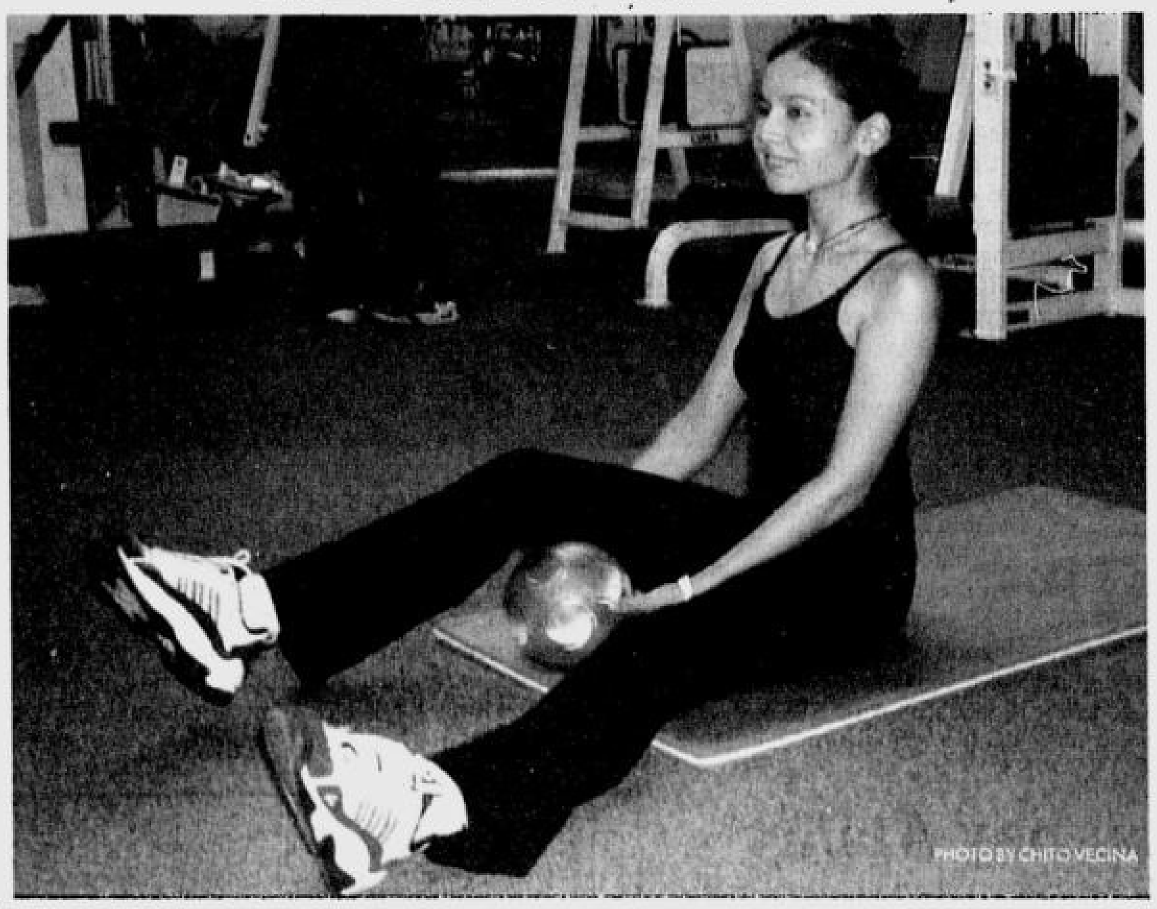


PHOTO BY CHITO VECINA

Over and under

WORKS the abdominal muscles (as stabilizers) and muscles of the front of the thighs (hip flexor group).

Equipment:

Medicine ball (or any other ball of the same size) and exercise mat.

Exercise technique:

1. Sit with straight legs wider than hip width.
2. Start with the ball in the middle. Lift your right leg by bending it as you pass the ball under (on the inside) and over (on the outside).
3. Do the same on your left leg. This now counts as one repetition.

Performance tips:

1. Maintain a straight back. As much as possible, do not slouch. If you feel you cannot maintain your posture, start the exercise already with bent legs.
2. For a harder variation, lean back in a V-sit position and keep your legs straight as you raise them to pass the ball over and under.

Repetitions:

Do 10 slow repetitions (right and left leg is one repetition). Rest. Do another set if you want to.

Three vs six meals a day

(From page C1)

ily mean no calories. Not only was her diet unbalanced (too much carbohydrates and too little of everything else), she couldn't keep track of how much she was actually eating because she never felt full. The solution to her problem was to get rid of her attitude that feeling full meant she was gaining weight and to restrict herself to eating three meals a day to stop her out-of-control snacking.

Another client had the opposite problem. She ate three meals a day but she would consistently eat too much at every meal. She couldn't stop herself from overeating. She said she didn't feel satisfied until she felt like "bursting." This meant two or three servings at every meal. She didn't snack in between meals because she felt that she would only add more calories to her diet. It took some time for her to realize that the reason she was eating too much at her meals was because she was "starving" by the time she sat down to eat. The five hours between breakfast at 7 a.m. and lunch at 12 noon were just too much for her. She would be so hungry by lunch time that she would lose all control over her appetite. The thought that her next meal was seven hours away yet at 7 p.m. made her eat even more. This client needed to eat a small snack (a glass of non-fat milk or a fruit) in the mid-morning and the mid-afternoon so she wouldn't be so hungry at meal times. The snacks were also her "security blanket." She didn't have to eat so much at meal times because she knew she would have something to eat in between meals.

This month's issue of Prevention Magazine has a story about their nutrition editor, Holly McCord, a registered dietician. McCord was one of those people who was gaining weight on the mini-meal plan. This was ironic because she had been recommending this plan to the magazine's readers for the last six years. Just like my first client above, the constant snacking was her downfall. She lost 20 pounds by going against her own advice and eating three meals a day.

This doesn't mean that you should eat three big meals a day if you are successful at controlling your weight with five to six small meals or vice-versa. The point here is that we are all different and there isn't any single one plan that is appropriate for everyone no matter what research finds out about how many calories are burned. Find the one that suits you best and stick with it.

The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines will hold a Fitness Seminar on April 28 at the Balay Kalinaw, UP Diliman Campus. Personal Training: Abdominal Exercise Variations, Training for a Marathon, Post Knee Surgery Exercises; Aerobics: Latin Step, Kickboxing, Exercises for Hips, Buttocks, and Thighs, High-Low Jazz; Fitness Management: Taxation, Making Projections, Performance Evaluations and Ethical Business Practices; Fitness Enthusiasts: How Weightlifting Can Make You Stronger and Slimmer, Beginner's Weightlifting Program. Call Lorna at 842-0567.

The Sports Medicine Association of the Philippines (SMAP) will hold its 10th annual convention on April 28 at the Manila Midtown Hotel. The theme is "Promoting Healthy Lifestyle for the Older Adult." Call 521-9123, 303-1142 or e-mail sportsmedphil@yahoo.com

For past articles or exercises, visit www.tinajuanfitness.com

Take Charge Doc!

Nicky Montoya, M.D.

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services?

Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA every Tuesday.

TAKE CHARGE DOC, one of the many ways we encourage you to get the answers and allow you to make the best use of your medical card.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

What happens when a MEDICard member is confined? What is a Letter of Authority (LOA)?

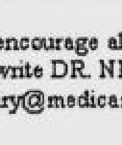
You may be admitted under MEDICard care when you present your valid MEDICard ID. During confinement our primary physician or coordinator in the hospital will see you and refer you to other specialists, if necessary.

During confinement our Liaison Officer or LO will visit you and assist you in some hospital and membership procedures. The LO will issue the letter of authorization or LOA upon discharge. This LOA will serve as guarantee that MEDICard will pay approved bills that may be incurred during confinement.

Meet your MEDICard Team

Dr. **Emiliano Tablante** is an Orthopedic Surgeon at St. Luke's Med. Center. He earned his fellowship in Orthopedic Trauma at the University of Cincinnati in Ohio, USA. He is also the first graduate of the Orthopedic Residency Training Program in the Institute of Orthopedic and Sports Medicine at St. Luke's Medical Center. He pioneered the orthopedic residency training program and participated in surgical procedures involving different orthopedic subspecialties such as trauma, reconstructive hand and microvascular operations. For appts, you can visit him at St Luke's, Med. Arts Bldg. Rm. 206, T-TH-S. 10 AM – 12NN or at Cathedral Heights Bldg. Suite 903. M-W-F . 4-6PM

After earning her degree as Doctor of Medicine at the University of Sto. Tomas, **Dr. Shirley Ong** chose Pediatrics as her line of specialty. Doc Shirley joined MEDICard's team 4 years ago and have remained popular with MEDICard members until now because of her genuine concern for children. In between treating patients and taking care of her family, she takes time to go ballroom dancing with some friends. She also loves to sing. If you want to visit her, you can go to Makati Medical Center, NW Rm, 372., clinic schedule is M-W-F, 10:30AM – 12NN.



Dr. **Socorro Garcia**, an IM – Pulmo Specialist, is one of MEDICard's accredited providers at Manila Doctor's Hospital. Being a dedicated doctor, you can see her in the hospital grounds from Mondays to Fridays. Weekends are devoted to her 2 kids. Aside from medicine, this doctor has a genuine love for theater and classical music. For consultations, you can visit her at the Prepaid Dept of Manila Doctors, Mon – Fri, 10AM – 12NN / 1:30PM – 5PM

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. HV Dela Costa St. Salcedo Village, Makati or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com

"Happy birthday!"

PLDT TXT 135

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   - Press 4 for "I love you"
   - Press 5 for "Happy Birthday"
   - Press 6 for "Please come home early"
   - Press 7 for "Please don't forget my bilin! Thanks."
   - Press 8 for "Sorry, I'll be late"
   - Press 9 for "Sorry, I can't make it"
   - Press 10 for "Don't worry, everything will be okay"
3. Enter sender's name or send right away. Voice prompt will confirm if message is sent.

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